Nida slay: Starlet's mother sought for questioning

STORY ON PAGE A2

NO ONE'S BUYING THE GIMMICK

Salesgirls in bras fail to lure buyers

HONG KONG—Shop owners have been turning to various gimmicks to draw in more customers amid Hong Kong's worsening economy.

SALESGIRLS/ A6

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2001 ★ 92 PAGES 9 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 341 ₱15

Vets on GMA mind when she meets Bush

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has arrived in America, promising to push for equal benefits to Filipino World War II veterans when she meets with US President George W. Bush and US legislators.

"I wish to bring up with President Bush the plight of Filipino-American war veterans whose benefits compare poorly with those of their counterparts," Ms Macapagal said before she left

VETS/ A20

7 hostages released, but not 2 Americans

Captivity likened to ebb, flow of the tides

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"They have the Stockholm Syndrome," it was said of the three women among the seven hostages freed by the Abu Sayyaf yesterday.

The American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham were not among them.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the AFP Southern Command, said Maria Fe Rosadeno and Angelica Montealegre, who were among those abducted from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27, were "recovered" around 8 a.m. somewhere in Basilan.

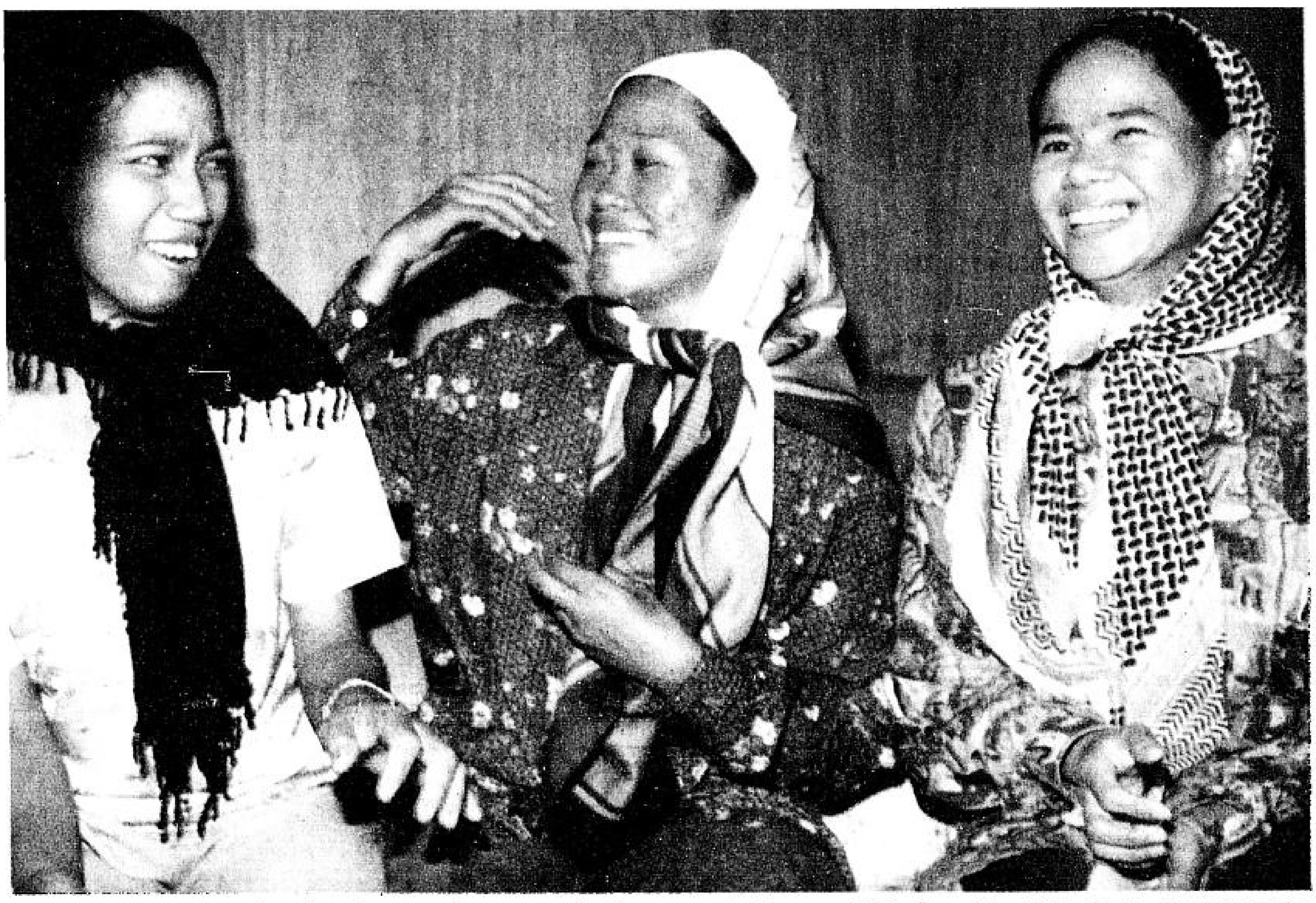
Cimatu declined to elaborate on how Rosadeno and Montealegre were recovered. But an independent source told the INQUIRER that two Abu Sayyaf members handed the women over to a member of the media, who in turn informed the military about it.

The two women, their hair covered in the traditional Muslim *turong*, were presented to the media yesterday afternoon. They were airlifted from Basilan to the Southcom headquarters here.

Montealegre, 31, an employee of a Makati-based PR firm, said she had worn the veil since the start of her captivity because the Abu Sayyaf would frown at the sight of a woman's hair.

She said that like Reina Malonzo, the Lamitan nurse who was freed by the Abu Sayyaf on

7 HOSTAGES/ A20



SOMETIMES it was a feast. Sometimes they ate only root crops, the three women hostages recall their six-month captivity with the Abu Sayyaf at the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City. From left, Sheila Tabunyag, Maria Fe Rosadeno and Angie Montealegre. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

MANILA MEETING

Asean Army chiefs unite vs terror

MILITARY chiefs of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday agreed in a meeting in Manila to boost cooperation against global terrorism, which they said posed a threat to regional stability and growth.

The military chiefs said there was "an immediate need" to address global terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States which left thousands of people dead.

Noting that violence was the language used by terrorists to intimidate, coerce or threaten governments and the public, the military chiefs said global terrorism "poses an imminent threat to international peace and security."

"We, the chiefs of armies of Asean, do hereby pledge to remain seized with the matter, and with other regions and countries to work in the global struggle against terrorism," they said in a statement.

It said the generals agreed to enhance information and the exchange of intelligence, discuss ways in which Asean armies can be more involved in the international community as well as boost cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Steps will also be taken to conduct a "multilateral simulation activity on emergency response to terrorism" at a still unspecified date.

Asean groups Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*

Shabu worth ₱668M seized

BY TONETTE OREJAS AND CESAR VILLA
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP CONRADO YAP, Zambales—Police seized from three Chinese 334 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (*shabu*) in the coastal town of San Narciso yesterday morning.

The haul, which has an estimated street value of P668 million, was packed in 21 hog-feed sacks, according to Director Efren Fernandez, chief of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group.

The three Chinese—Cai Hong See alias Edwin Hong Chua, Henry Tamayo Tan alias Eddie Tan, and William Chua—have been arrested. Pangasinan police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza identified Edwin Chua as a Manila-based drug lord.

In Manila, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza congratulated Fernandez for "another major blow to Chinese drug lords

SHABU/ A6

Cory warns: Beware of politicized military

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE COUNTRY'S business leaders needed to draw lessons from the past from former national leaders to cope with the increasingly uncertain state of the nation.

They heard Lesson No. 1 yesterday from former President Corazon Aquino: Beware of a politicized military.

Aquino, whose administration was besieged by at least six coup attempts, warned that a politicized military continued to threaten the country's economy.

Coup rumors that had hounded the Macapagal administration es-

CORY/ A20

GETTY IMAGES

THE UNVEILING of Afghan women in the streets of Kabul continues as anti-Taliban forces consolidate their takeover of the Afghan capital. Other women choose complete coverage for themselves.

Bin Laden: Death better than capture

KABUL—Osama bin Laden has vowed to die rather than be handed over to the United States, a Taliban official yesterday said as US forces stepped up the hunt for the world's most wanted man in Afghanistan.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld highlighted fears that Bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, would try to flee the country.

And Pakistan has tightened its watch on the Afghan border in case the multi-millionaire creator of the al-Qaida international terrorist net-

BIN/ A19

Workers 'reorganized' out of jobs

BY TJ BURGONIO

(First of two parts)

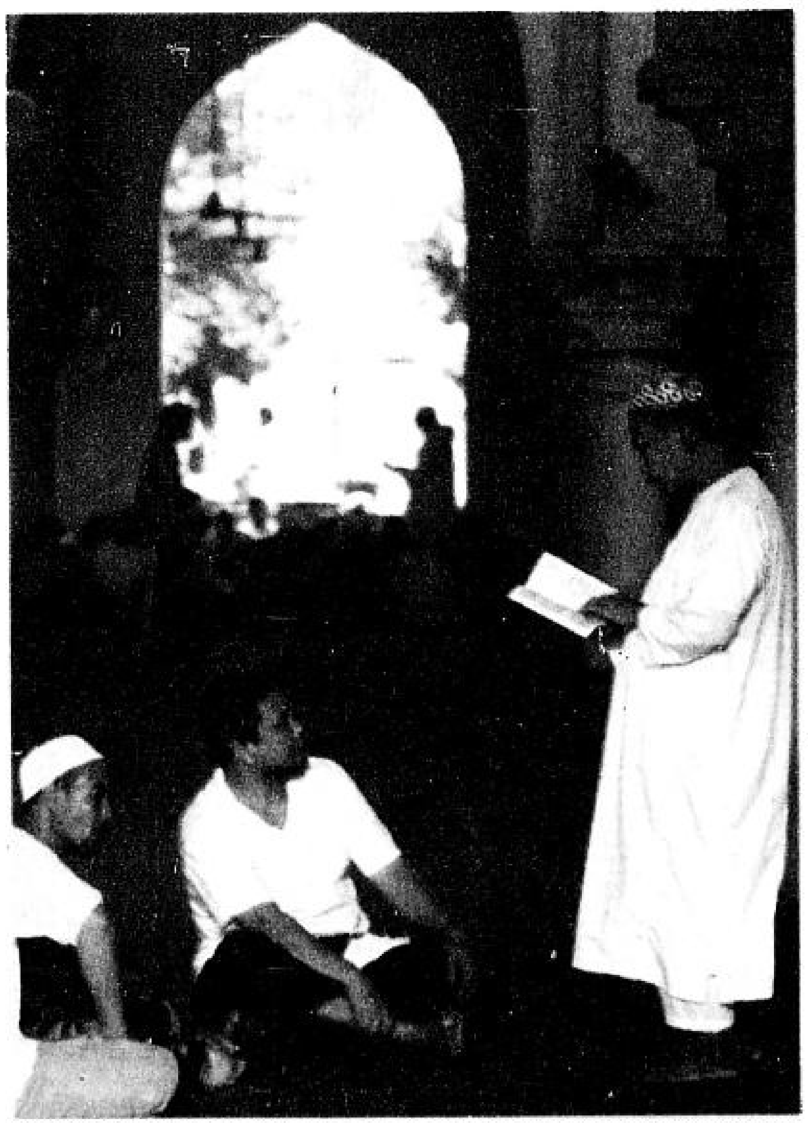
SPECIAL REPORT

FORTY-ONE government employees joined the rising ranks of the jobless yesterday as a result of the merger of the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (GFSME) and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC).

All of the 58 GFSME employees and 73 SBGFC employees had been terminated to make way for the consolidation of the two agencies. They had been given the option to reapply but only 90 can be rehired. That shuts out 41 employees from their jobs with over a month to go before Christmas.

The employees' grief began when President Macapagal-Arroyo issued in May Executive Order No. 19, transferring GFSME from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Trade and Industry. Then in July, she issued EO 28, consolidating the GFSME and the SBGFC. The same EO provided for the reorganization of the SBGFC.

WORKERS/ A20



UPON SIGHTING OF THE MOON: First day of Ramadan at the Quiapo mosque is marked by the reading of the Koran, Islam's holy book. AFP

SINO KAYA SIYA?

Second FRONT PAGE

Nida slay: Starlet's ma sought

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

AUTHORITIES are looking into the possible involvement of a movie starlet's mother in the killing of actress Nida Blanca.

A ranking investigator, talking on condition of anonymity, said authorities received a tip the unidentified "stage mother" was with Blanca before she died.

"We got a tip about her but we are still confirming the veracity of the report," the source said.

The investigator declined to give more details about the woman except to say that she was having financial problems.

Other sources said the woman had been involved in several public scrapes with her starlet-daughter in the past.

As this developed, police said one of the fingerprints lifted from Blanca's car where her bloodied body was found belonged to one of the 22 persons already questioned as witnesses in the investigation.

Police were quick to add, however, that this was not enough to make the person a suspect in the case.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, police Task Force Marsha spokesperson, declined to identify the person.

"We are still determining his or her involvement in the case," Espina said yesterday.

He said the witness' left thumbprint was found on the rear view mirror of Blanca's car which had been parked on the sixth floor of the Atlanta Center in San Juan, where the late actress had held office as a movie censor.

Espina said it was possible the fingerprint had been left long before Blanca's killing, since fingerprints could stay on an object for as long as two weeks.

BLANCA

Espina said investigators were able to lift 26 finger and palm prints from Blanca's car, including one from a concrete column in the parking area.

He said these were compared to the finger and palm prints voluntarily submitted by the 22 witnesses. One of the prints was eventually matched to the fingerprint lifted from the car.

Espina said eight fingerprints lifted from the car were blurred and fragmented, while the others did not match any of the prints submitted by the witnesses.

At yesterday's regular news briefing on the progress of the case, Espina appealed to the public to give authorities more time to solve the case.

"Give us a little more time. Our investigators are not resting anymore," he said when pressed by reporters for a timetable on the investigation.

"We are still collating evidence to build a strong case," he said.

He said scrapings taken from Blanca's fingernails will be subjected to DNA tests, which could take from four to six weeks to complete.

Espina reiterated that no suspects have been arrested in the case, although some persons were being closely watched by police.

Erap lawyers claim hearsay

THE TESTIMONIES of two key prosecution witnesses that Joseph Estrada made money from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares using state pension funds are mere "hearsay."

This was the argument raised by the defense panel yesterday in its continuing cross examination of former Social Security System chair Carlos Arellano in Estrada's plunder trial.

Arellano was made to recall in court how he was phoned by Federico "Ding" Pascual to warn him that the two of them might be implicated in the plunder case then being readied against Estrada.

Arellano said Pascual, then chair of the Government Service Insurance System, was merely quoting "reports" that Estrada earned commissions from the Belle transaction.

Quirino birthday

A MASS to be held at the Santuario de San Antonio in Makati today will mark the 111th birthday of Elpidio Quirino, the second president of the republic. A floral offering will follow at his burial place in South Cemetery.

The late President had long career of illustrious public service which started in 1919, culminating in his succeeding President Manuel Roxas on his death in 1948.

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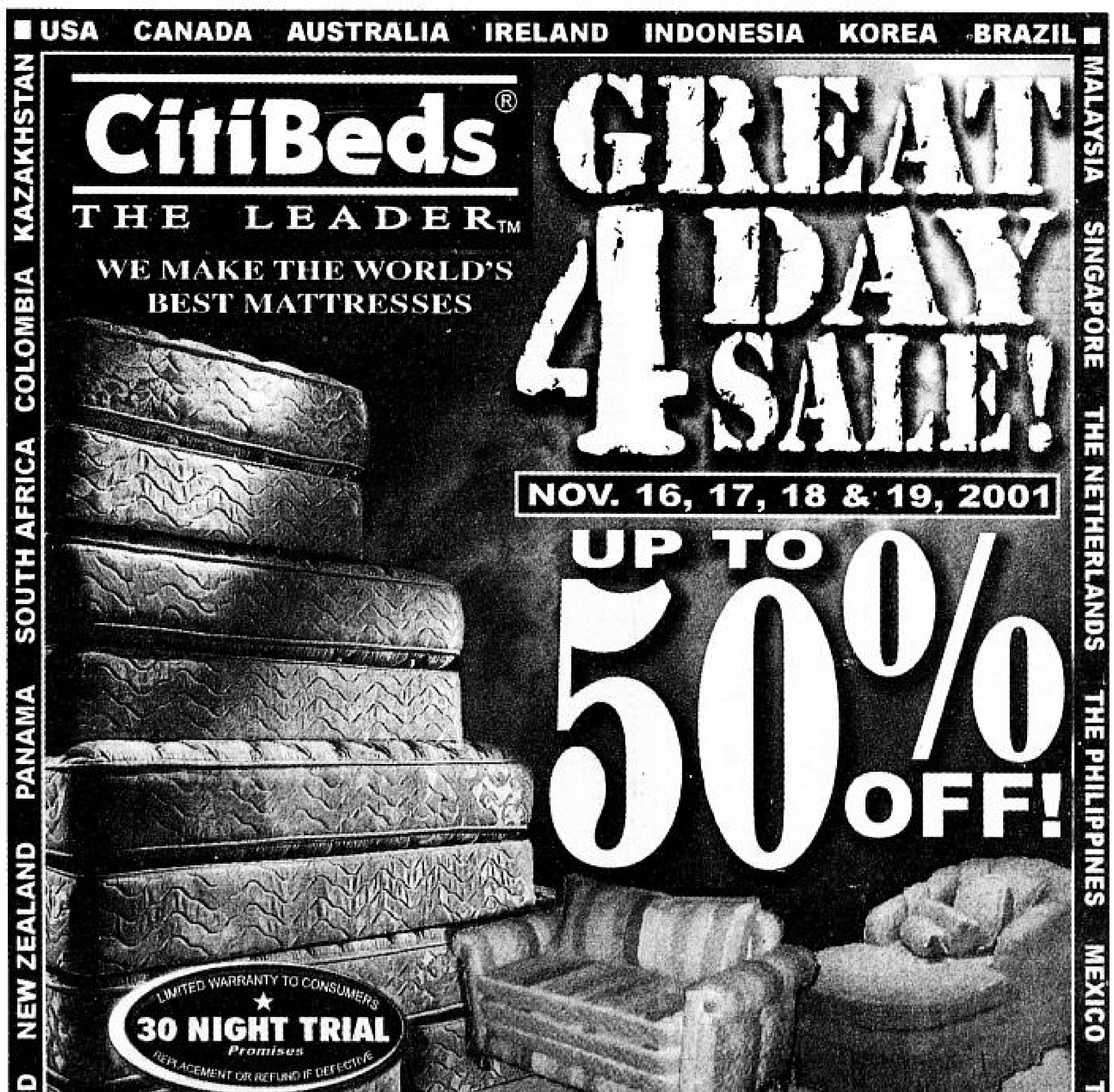

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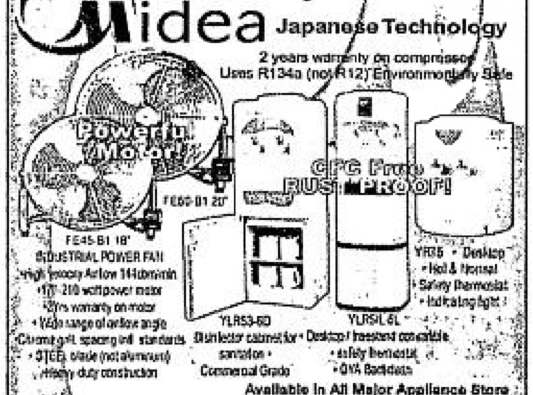

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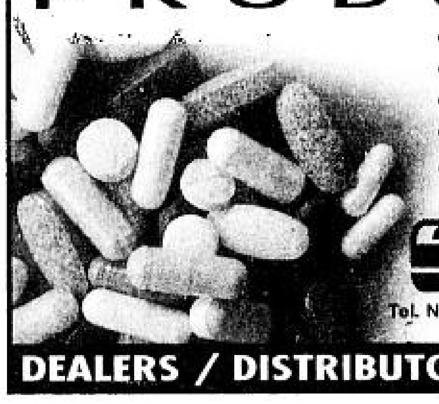

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Joker accused of cover-up in probe of Mike Arroyo

BY CARLITO PABLO

BUSINESSMAN Pacifico Marcelo yesterday accused Sen. Joker Arroyo of attempting to end abruptly the Senate's investigation into the alleged P40-million telecommunications scam to cover up the solon's association with the supposed "hatchet man" in the deal.

The supposed scam involved the alleged payment of P40 million to a Malacañang group headed by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to work for the recall of President Macapagal-Arroyo's veto of two telecommunications franchises.

Marcelo identified the "hatchet man" as Ito Los Baños who, he charged, "extorted money from me on behalf of the First Gentleman."

Marcelo said Los Baños was Senator Arroyo's Malacañang-appointed campaign manager during last May's senatorial elections.

"It's an attempt (at a) cover-up. I thought Senator Arroyo was an honorable man. I just lost respect for him," Marcelo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Sought for reaction, the First Gentleman's spokesperson, lawyer Patricia Bunye, said Marcelo's allegations were "recycled issues."

"When the telecoms controversy cropped up, Los Baños was linked to Joker Arroyo, but the senator has already denied that Los Baños had been his campaign manager," Bunye said.

"The First Gentleman, for his part, has time and again denied any involvement in the issue," Bunye added.

Senator Arroyo had announced he may end the hearings before the blue ribbon committee, which he chairs, because none of the witnesses so far have presented any evidence linking the First Gentleman or other figures to the purported scam.

Marcelo said that contrary to Senator Arroyo's claim that he (Marcelo) could not be found to testify, he was reached last Monday by lawyer Emilia Pueyo, secretary of the blue ribbon committee, and they agreed that Marcelo would appear before the panel on Nov. 22.

"I'm not running away," said Marcelo, majority stockholder of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc., the two telecoms firms whose franchises were vetoed by President Macapagal in April 2001.

"That is unfair. I'm the principal player and the most affected party in this entire thing. The most important witness is me," he said.

Marcelo claimed that after the President vetoed the franchises, Los Baños approached him and, for a fee, allegedly offered to have the vetoes recalled.

"He (Los Baños) gave us some figures. Money was definitely discussed," Marcelo said, declining to give a number. Los Baños, he said, claimed to represent the First Gentleman.

Later reports had the figure as being between P40 million and P50 million.

Marcelo added, "The money was coursed through an associate of Los Baños whom I also know," but he did identify the go-between.

The money, he said, was "just an initial amount, a down payment because he (Los Baños) did not deliver on his part of the deal."

The First Gentleman has denied trying to influence his wife into withdrawing the vetoes.

The President did not recall the vetoes.

Los Baños has been described as a business partner of the First Gentleman, although this has been denied by Mr. Arroyo's camp.

In a previous interview, Bunye acknowledged that Los Baños had served as a consultant of sorts to Ms Macapagal when she was a senator.

In previous interviews, Marcelo had claimed PCCI stood to earn at least $1 billion annually had it been allowed to operate.

Marcelo said certain parties identified with the First Couple "wanted the business for themselves," hinting this may have been the reason behind the vetoes.

Marcelo said the telecommunications franchise issue was basically a "shakedown" and a simple case of "extortion."

Marcelo was a consultant to Jaime Dichaves, a crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

He has denied allegations he is Dichaves' dummy at PCCI and APC Wireless.

Where SC failed, Sandigan succeeds

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE FEUD between Sandiganbayan Justices Anacleto Badoy and Francis Garchitorena has started to cool down—right in their own household.

After the high court failed to settle their bickering, the two were "convinced" by fellow Sandiganbayan justices not to file charges against each other anymore, according to one justice yesterday.

"We were able to settle (the row) in a sense that we were able to convince Presiding Justice Garchitorena and Justice Badoy not to press charges against each other anymore," Justice Narciso Nario told reporters.

But he said the two justices have not yet fully buried the hatchet, saying the situation still warrants more "peacekeeping efforts."

In an order on Wednesday, the SC gave Garchitorena and Badoy 48 hours to swap formal charges with the SC oversight committee if they so desired."

This was after the high tribunal failed to reconcile the two after a four-hour dialogue on Monday.

But Nario explained that "we (Sandiganbayan justices) haven't completely settled their differences."

"We will continue our peacemaking efforts toward the final settlement. That was a good initial step," said Nario, who chairs the anti-graft court's 4th Division.

Lacson says PNP has 'jueteng' payola evidence

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

SEN. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday the leadership of the Philippine National Police "need not look far for evidence of illegal gambling operations in Luzon and payola being paid to ranking officers since the proof they are looking for is right inside Camp Crame."

Camp Crame in Quezon City is the headquarters of the PNP.

"I need not provide them with the evidence because it (has been) with them at Camp Crame all (this) time," Lacson said in a press statement.

Lacson, himself a former PNP chief, was referring to a comprehensive report crafted during a law enforcement workshop on illegal gambling held at Camp Crame two months ago.

Lacson said he merely lifted his Senate exposé on jueteng, an illegal numbers game, from the Sept. 4, 2001 report which said "jueteng bets were being collected daily in Luzon and its operations were being protected by ranking police and local government officials."

"The report is a virtual admission by the PNP that jueteng exists, that payola exists. Now what evidence are they looking for from me?" Lacson asked.

Current PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said yesterday Lacson should take his accusations to court.

"The most responsible response would be to challenge the good senator (Lacson) to take his goods to court," Mendoza said during turnover rites for newly reshuffled PNP directors.

Mendoza said, however, the police officers accused by Lacson of receiving payola from jueteng operators would be left to fend for themselves and should not expect the PNP to defend them.

"Those who have been indicted in public must stand their (own) ground," Mendoza said.

Mendoza on Thursday said he has asked the National Police Commission to investigate Lacson's allegations.

But apart from the promise of an impartial investigation, Mendoza has only required the officials implicated by Lacson to submit written explanations on the allegations.

According to the police report on jueteng, proceeds from the numbers game are distributed as follows: 30 percent to the "protectors," 15 percent to collectors and other personnel, 30 percent for the prize money, and 25 percent for the operators and maintainers.

Lacson said the Camp Crame report showed there are 72 "protectors" coddling 447 illegal gambling operators and financiers.

Forty of these "protectors" are PNP officers while 16 are local government officials, he said.

The report also identified 89 jueteng lords operating in Central and Southern Luzon.

PNP director for Region IV Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes Jr. yesterday denied allegations made by Lacson that illegal gambling has resumed in Southern Luzon.

With Nelson F. Flores

Blue print vs poverty drawn up

ECONOMIST Hernando de Soto is to complete a study on eradicating poverty in the Philippines and submit a project proposal for foreign aid agency funding, a top presidential aide said Thursday.

Combatting poverty is a centerpiece of the Macapagal administration's policy and De Soto was invited to help government craft a strategy to achieve the goal.

After meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday, the Peruvian economist agreed to expand the study into a specific project proposal to be completed within two weeks and submitted to international aid agencies, said Victoria Garchitorena, head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Endriga, 74

ARISTON D. Endriga Sr., of Mayuga, Libagon, Southern Leyte, died Tuesday at the age 74 at the St. Luke's Medical Center. He was the father of veteran journalist Vic A. Endriga, formerly of the defunct Philippine Daily Express, Metro Sun and People's Tonight.

He is survived by children Roy, Vic, Lolita, John, Elvira and Aris Jr.; in-laws Irene, Espie, Bebeng, and Jaime, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other relatives. His remains lie at the Dulce Funeral Homes on Abad Santos Avenue corner Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Tondo, Manila. It will be flown Sunday to Tacloban City for interment at the private family memorial park in his hometown of Libagon.

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Mabitac priest slain

THE PARISH priest of Mabitac, Laguna, was stabbed dead yesterday by two assailants in a reported robbery attempt, barely a month after the town mayor was ambushed and killed.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said Fr. Arsenio "Jun" Plata Jr., reportedly a close friend of the slain Mayor Bernardo Sarayot, was attacked at 2 p.m. inside his the church.

Initial investigation by the Mabitac police showed the assailants entered the church and tried to rob the priest of his valuables.

One of the suspects then reportedly pulled out a knife and stabbed the priest in the chest.

One of the assailants was reportedly mobbed by angry residents and was arrested. The other managed to escape.

Chavez quits post in Marcos wealth hunt

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER Solicitor General Francisco Chavez yesterday resigned as deputy counsel for the Department of Justice on the recovery of Marcos ill-gotten wealth, dismayed with the government's inaction in the recovery of the Araneta accounts.

Since July, after the trip to Germany, Chavez claimed that the DOJ and the Macapagal-Arroyo government, in general, appeared to be "not serious in pursuing the recovery efforts on the Marcos cash and gold hoard."

"Nothing, absolutely nothing has been done by the DOJ and this government in pursuing the Araneta accounts abroad," he said.

He particularly referred to Irene Araneta's account with Union Bank of Switzerland, with client Account No. 885931, which she allegedly had tried to launder from Switzerland to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany, in February.

Chavez also lambasted the DOJ, saying it had already lost its integrity, and that its reputation had been badly damaged because of reports that there had been selling and manipulation of DOJ resolutions that had benefited certain members and officials of the DOJ.

He referred to the DOJ as the "Department store of Justice."

"And I do not want to be a part of it, even as a mere Special Counsel," he said.

Chavez recalled that the DOJ and other members of the Philippine delegation, including him, went to Germany to follow up the alleged money laundering attempt of the Aranetas in the latter part of June. But after submitting their reports to President Macapagal-Arroyo in July, the case seemed to have stood still.

Chavez noted that Malacanang did not even acknowledge receiving his report about the matter, dated July 2.

"As of today, the matter is at a standstill. After that trip to Germany, no meeting whatsoever was conducted among the members of the Philippine delegation (let alone called by the secretary himself) to discuss plans and strategies as well as anticipatory moves to further pursue the Marcos loot," stated Chavez in his resignation letter addressed to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

He accused the government of maintaining a "purely reactive position" on the matter, since it allegedly had not initiated any action to further the recovery of the Marcos accounts.

"And this leads me to believe that nothing will happen in this quest because the DOJ and this government do not have the drive, the enthusiasm, the seriousness and the will to relentlessly recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth," Chavez said.

"As it is, the government obviously wants to freeze this matter into a state of perpetual inconsequence," he said in his letter to Perez.

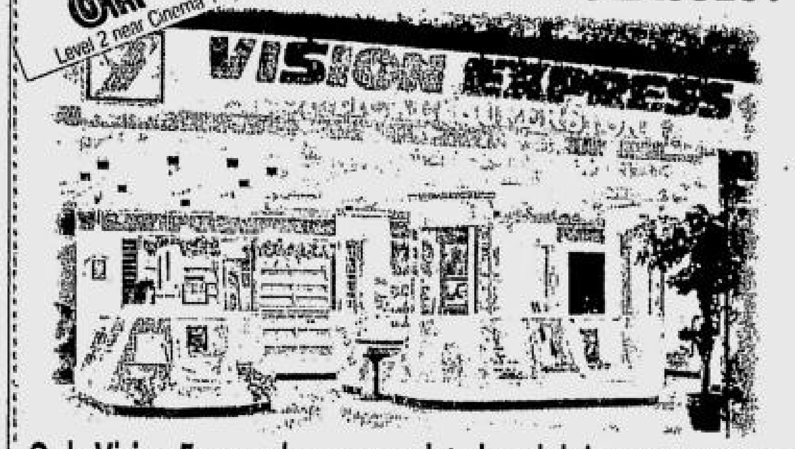
Chavez said he had been perpetually calling up Perez about any follow-up on the Aranetas' attempt to launder their accounts, but the justice secretary would not return his calls.

Another reason why he decided to resign were recent reports about the alleged "Ateneo mafia" at the DOJ, whose members had allegedly been provided financial gains through alleged manipulation of favored resolutions.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, on the other hand, claimed that it had been doing "a couple of things" in relation to the investigation of the Araneta's attempt to launder their alleged accounts.

"Everything is in our confidential report to the President," said PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza.

"Just because he (Chavez) is not involved and does not know about it, does not mean that the government is not doing anything about the recovery of the Marcos accounts," he said.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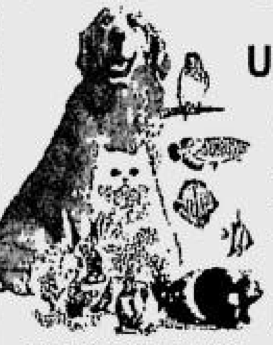
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AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor believes the missing P4.3-billion Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) had been absorbed into the government general fund and had been spent.

The missing fund, representing tariffs imposed on imported agricultural products, could have been integrated into the government's general fund in the absence of a special trust account, Montemayor said yesterday.

While the government started collecting tariffs and charges on the importation of sensitive agricultural products since 1996, a special trust account for these collections was opened only in 1999, he said.

"So the problem in 1996, 1997, 1998 and part of 1999 was that the customs collection was never kept in one account. It must have gone into the general fund," Montemayor said in an ambush interview.

Montemayor also voiced the beliefs that the amount had been used. "If you're going to look for the portion of the fund that was not entered into the special trust account, the problem now is that it had been spent," he said.

"So now you're going to get it from the general funds of the government? But then you have to sacrifice the other programs. That's the basic problem."

Montemayor said that had the special trust account created early on, the fund would have been fully accounted for now. *TJ Burgonio*

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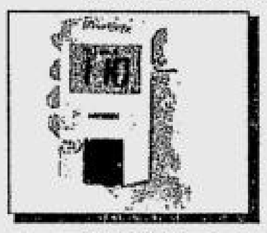

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(From page A1)

in the country."

Fernandez, who arrived with the haul aboard two choppers around 4 p.m. in Camp Crame, said there would be no let-up in the campaign against drug traffickers.

"We won't stop until these syndicates are neutralized," said Fernandez, who assumed his post only yesterday, replacing Chief Supt. Reyno Gonzales.

Fernandez and PNP regional officials inspected the haul yesterday morning.

Superintendent Mendoza said the haul was part of the cargo intercepted last week along the coast of Barangay Macalang in Dasol, Pangasinan. Five Chinese were arrested in that incident.

Yesterday's shipment was dropped at sea off Masinloc town, transferred to motorboats, picked up by the three Chinese and then loaded in two Toyota Revo vans, according to Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director.

From Masinloc, the Chinese headed southward for Metro Manila but were intercepted at the Macolcol Bridge in Barangay Alusiis in San Narciso, according to Sr. Supt. Evna Ruiz, PNP Narcotics Group deputy director for operations.

Ruiz said the Chinese were now in Camp Crame where charges of violation of Republic Act 6425 (or the Dangerous Drugs Law) were being prepared against them.

A team made up of members of the PNP Narcotics Group, Zambales police, National Bureau of Investigation, Coast Guard and Philippine Navy tracked down the haul from sea to land in a 10-hour operation that ended at 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

Fernandez said the Hong Kong Triad was responsible for the landing of the drugs in Pangasinan.

Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr., Zambales police director, said the ship that carried the drugs sped toward international waters after dropping its cargo.

He said international maritime laws prevented the PNP from pursuing the ship outside of the Philippines' jurisdiction.

Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said no local officials were involved in the smuggling of shabu. "It's really strictly a Chinese connection," he said without elaborating.

Magsaysay said that with Zambales' coastline of more than 140 kilometers and a limited number of policemen, the smuggling of illegal drugs from China via the South China Sea had required the cooperation and vigilance of residents of coastal villages.

Late last year, 33 kilos of shabu were intercepted in Sta. Cruz town

Ruiz said the quantity of the seized drugs was initially declared at 336 kilos because the team thought all 21 sacks had 16 packs each. Later inspection showed that one of the sacks had only 14 bags, she said.

Each of the bags weighed a kilo.

"We have reason to believe that this (haul) is part of a bigger shipment," said Director General Mendoza. "There are others being recovered."

He said follow-up operations had been launched against other members of the Chinese group who might have part of the drug shipment with them.

Mendoza also said the drugs were intended for distribution in Luzon.

He is to present the three Chinese and the drug haul in a news conference today.

RICH haul of shabu is inspected upon the arrival at Camp Crame from Zambales of top police officials led by Director General Leandro Mendoza (in white, center). JOAN BONDOC

Last month the PNP raided a suspected shabu laboratory in Pasig City that was allegedly operated by chemists from Mainland China.

Also last month, the PNP seized 503 kilos of shabu loaded in an ambulance being escorted by a municipal mayor in Quezon province. The mayor, along with a Chinese national, was arrested in the operation. *With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Salesgirls in bras . . .

(From page A1)

A boutique owner had even dressed his sales assistants in bras and tight jeans but not even this could tempt buyers.

S. L. Wong, owner of the newly opened fashion boutique Temptation, said that although people were coming to the shop, they were keeping a tight hold on their wallets.

"A lot of them come to see, but few make any purchase," he told the widely circulated Apple Daily.

He said his shop assistants were mainly dancers and models and that he had not forced them to dress seductively.

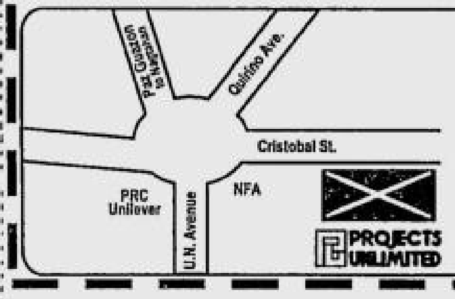
Wong said his business was only just breaking ever since opening four months ago.

Retailers in Hong Kong are resorting to a variety of promotional tactics to stimulate spending amid rising unemployment, a drop in tourist arrivals and deflation.

Half-price promotional sales are commonplace and even fresh food vendors are finding it necessary to tempt customers with gimmicks.

The territory's two leading supermarket chains are engaged in a price war, while others are offering stamps that can be exchanged for free gifts.

For September, retail sales fell 4.4 percent to HK$14.4 billion and were down 1.7 percent in volume. In August, retail sales were down 0.9 percent but rose 1.8 percent in volume. *AFP*



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Features:
- Technology Forum
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TECHNOFORUM TOPICS (SEMINAR ROOM 1)
NOVEMBER 16, 2001 (FRIDAY) • SEMINAR FEE: P1,000.00
Title "EQUIPMENT OPERATION & MANAGEMENT"
REGISTRATION : (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
Topic 1 (9:00 - 12:00 noon) RISK MANAGEMENT & BASIC RIGGING PLAN By: Mike Miller
Session 2 : (1:30 - 4:30 p.m.) EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S COURSE By: Association of Carriers & Equipment Lessors, Inc. (Florello P. Quianzon-ACEL Past President & Panel of Experts)
Session 3 : (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.) EXTENDED PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE INTERVAL By: Desmond Teo- Donaldson Company
CLOSING REMARKS: (6:00 - 6:15 p.m.) By: Kit A.R. Angeles, ACEL President, J.V. Angeles Construction Corp.

NOVEMBER 17, 2001 (SATURDAY) • SEMINAR FEE: P1,000.00
Title "COST & QUALITY OPTIMIZATION OF CONCRETE"
REGISTRATION : (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
Topic 1 : (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.) CONCRETE PERFORMANCE CONTROL By: Dr. Benito Pacheco - Vibrametrics, Inc.
Topic 2 : (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.) AGGREGATES By: Felipe T. Sibal, Jr. - EEI-Philrock
Topic 3: (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.) ADMIXTURES By: Hedy U. Barretto - Philprima Chemical Corp.
Topic 4 (2:15 - 3:15 p.m.) TROUBLESHOOTING CONCRETE PROBLEMS By: Francis C. Felizardo - Union Cement
Topic 5 : (3:30 - 5:00 p.m.) ON-SITE TESTING OF CEMENT COMPONENTS & THEIR INFLUENCE ON CEMENT FACTOR By: Hernani S. Paslon - Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc./PHILCEMCOR
CLOSING REMARKS: (5:15 - 5:30 p.m.) By: Justo E. Manalo, PCA President, J.E. Manalo & Co., Inc.

PRODUCT DEMO SCHEDULE (STAGE AREA)
NOVEMBER 15, THURSDAY
01:00-02:00 High Rise Publication
02:00-03:00 Gomeco Metal Corporation - "Kitchen Solution for the Construction Industry"
03:00-04:00 IcFOX Philippines, Inc. "Inter-net based Applications for Construction Industry Processes"
04:00-05:00 Sika Philippines Inc.
05:00-06:00 EEI Corporation
NOVEMBER 16, FRIDAY
11:00-12:00 Tri-Little Dragon Ceramics
01:00-02:00 Decopro Inc. "Actual Demonstration on How to Install and Apply Decopro Products"
02:00-03:00 Global Brands
03:00-04:00 Donaldson Filtration (Asia Pacific) Pte. - "Donaldson Filtration's New Ways to Reduce Engine Maintenance Cost"
04:00-05:00 American Technologies Inc.
05:00-06:00 King's Shoe Manufacturing Phils., Inc.
NOVEMBER 17, SATURDAY
10:00-11:00 EEI Corporation
11:00-12:00 Habitat for Humanity Phils. - "Per Square Meter"
01:00-02:00 Pozzolanic Phil. Inc.
02:00-03:00 Penta-Isles, Inc. - "Titan Airless Spray Painting Demo"
03:00-04:00 Solar gard Phils Corp
04:00-05:00 Scaffold Tech Services Corporation - "Polyshield SS-100: State of the Art Waterproofing Coatings"
05:00-06:00 Taytan International Corporation

Participants as of Nov. 12, 2001
A.V.D. MARKETING CORP ❖ ACECAD SOFTWARE ❖ ACEG STEEL PRODUCTS, INC/POLYON BARKAI ❖ ADCO BLUE CONSTRUCTION & TRADING CORP. ❖ ALENSON TRADE CORP. ❖ ALLGEMEINE-BAU-CHEMIE PHIL., INC ❖ ALUFORM INDUSTRIES, INC. ❖ AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC./LATTICE NETWORKS INC ❖ ANDERSON ASPHALT (Hongkong) ❖ ANYTHING ENTERPRISES ❖ AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CORP ❖ ARCHKONST/QUARTER GROUP PUBLISHING ❖ ARTLIGHT EXPRESS ❖ ASIA INDUSRIES MATERIAL HANDLING EQPMNT ❖ ASIACO ENT. INTL. CORP. ❖ ASSOCIATION OF CARRIERS & EQUIPMENT LESSORS, INC (ACEL) ❖ ASTRAL POOL INTERNATIONAL (Spain) ❖ ATLANTA INDUSTRIES ❖ AUTOMATION & SECURITY INC. ❖ BJC ENTERPRISES PTY LTD ❖ BISAZZA ❖ BLUPRINT MAGAZINE ❖ CICG INTERNATIONAL TRADE CORPORATION ❖ CAMP MKTG & DEV'T. INC. ❖ CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS. ❖ CENTURY CHEMICAL ❖ CHARTER CHEMICAL CORPORATION ❖ CITIZEN'S MASS MEDIA ❖ CMC MERCHANDISING ❖ COFTA MOULDING CORPORATION ❖ COLEMAN ASIA ❖ COLENT ENTERPRISE COMPANY ❖ CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ❖ CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CMDF) ❖ CONSTRUCTION TODAY ❖ COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS OF THE PHILIPPINES (CECOPHIL) ❖ DAEDONG URETHANE, INC ❖ DN STEEL GROUP OF COMPANIES ❖ DTI-BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS ❖ DURALCO INC. ❖ EEI CORPORATION ❖ EYPpn CORPORATION ❖ EASTERN WIRE MANUFACTURING INC ❖ ELEKTROWERK INC ❖ EMERALD VINYL CORP ❖ ENGELHART MFG CORP ❖ ERGONOMIC SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ ETERION MULTI-RESOURCES CORP ❖ FW NICOL PHILIPPINES INC ❖ FAIRE INTERNATIONAL TRADER ❖ FELPORT INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ❖ FEON INTERIORS ❖ FIBERLITE INC ❖ FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC Trading Division ❖ FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC ❖ FOREST HOME DEPOT ❖ FREYSSINET ❖ GLOBAL BRANDS CO. INC ❖ GLOBAL PRODUCTS ❖ GOMECO METAL CORP/MULTI MACH INTL ❖ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILS FOUNDATION, INC ❖ HAFELE PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ HANDYWARE PHILIPPINES, INC/COLUMBIA MACHINE INC ❖ HIGH RISE PUBLICATION ❖ HOME IDEAS ❖ ITWASIA (PTE) LTD. ❖ INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECTL ENGRS OF THE PHILS (IIEE) ❖ INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC SYSTEMS, INC ❖ INTERNATIONAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORP (IHEC) ❖ JKFS ENTERPRISES ❖ JETRO MANILA (JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION) ❖ K-PLAST INC. ❖ KING SHOE MFG PHILS., INC. ❖ KENNETH & MOCK DESIGNS, INC. ❖ KENT INDUSTRIAL CORP. ❖ LATICRETE INTL PACIFIC (PTE) LTD (Singapore) ❖ LATTICE NETWORKS, INC./AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES INC. ❖ LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC ❖ LIMSON MARKETING ❖ MOF COMPANY (SUBIC), INC ❖ MANILA RUBBER CORP. ❖ MAYSAN CASTING CORPORATION ❖ MAYON CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY ❖ MEDIAHOUSE PUBLICATIONS SDN BHD ❖ MEGA PERFORMANCE HOUSEWARES CO. LTD ❖ MEGA SYSTEM ENTERPRISES ❖ METSO MINERALS PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ MONARK FOUNDATION ❖ MULTI RICH HOME DÉCOR INC. ❖ NELTEX DEV'T. CO., INC. ❖ NEW KAWARA INC ❖ NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION ❖ NORTHWEST STEEL ❖ OPTIMUS SPACE SOLUTIONS, INC. ❖ OUTSTRIP CORPORATION/SUN POWER CERAMICS ❖ PT INTEKERAMIK ALAMASRI INDUSTRI (Indonesia) ❖ PACIFIC PAINT & OIL MFG INC ❖ PAG-ASA STEEL WORKS, INC. ❖ PARS BUILDERS, INC. ❖ PENTA-ISLES INC ❖ PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ❖ PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC (PCA) ❖ PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ARBITRATION COMMISSION ❖ PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ❖ PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS ❖ POW-ERS ELECTRIC CORP. ❖ POZZOLANIC PHILIPPINES INC ❖ PRIT ENTERPRISES INC. ❖ PUYAT STEEL CORPORATION ❖ PUYAT VINYL PRODUCTS, INC ❖ RQG MARKETING CORP. ❖ RHINO SYSTEMS INC ❖ RIAN COMMERCIAL ❖ RIVERA FILIPINA INC. ❖ RODCLAY ROOFING, INC ❖ RUBYCOMM ❖ STA. BARBARA PUBLISHING CORP ❖ SANDVIK TAMROCK PHILS., INC ❖ SCAFF SYSTEM MFG INC ❖ SICCION MARKETING, INC ❖ SIKA PHILIPPINES INC. ❖ SILIKAL GMBH & CO. KG. ❖ SKYMART ENTERPRISE ❖ SMART TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, CORP ❖ SOCIETY OF PHIL ELECTL CONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS ASSOC (SPECS) ❖ SOLAR GARD PHILS. ❖ SPECS SOURCEBOOK ❖ SPURWAY ENTERPRISES ❖ STEELASIA MFG CORP ❖ STONEWORKS SPECIALISTS INTL CORP ❖ SUERTE STEEL CORPORATION ❖ SUNRISE HOLIDAY CONCEPTS, INC. ❖ SUPRA SYSTEMS (PHILS) INC ❖ SYMEX PHIL COMMERCIAL VENTURES/FALCON TECHNICAL SERVICES SYN YAO ENT. CO. LTD. ❖ TGRAF ❖ TAGAYLIN ASSOCIATES ❖ TAYTAN INTERNATIONAL CORP. ❖ TEAM ASIA CORPORATION TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION PROMOTION SYSTEM ❖ TECHNORESINS INDUSTRIAL, INC. ❖ TERESA MARBLE CORP ❖ THE BRAIN COMPUTER CORP ❖ THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS ❖ TIMBAL MARBLE ❖ TOTAL 2000 CORPORATION ❖ TRADE LINK MEDIA ❖ TREND (F.E.) PUBLISHING & PRMOTIONS CENTER ❖ TRI-LITTLE DRAGON CERAMICS ❖ TRENDWAY BUILDERS, INC ❖ WILFORM INC. ❖ WIRTGEN PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

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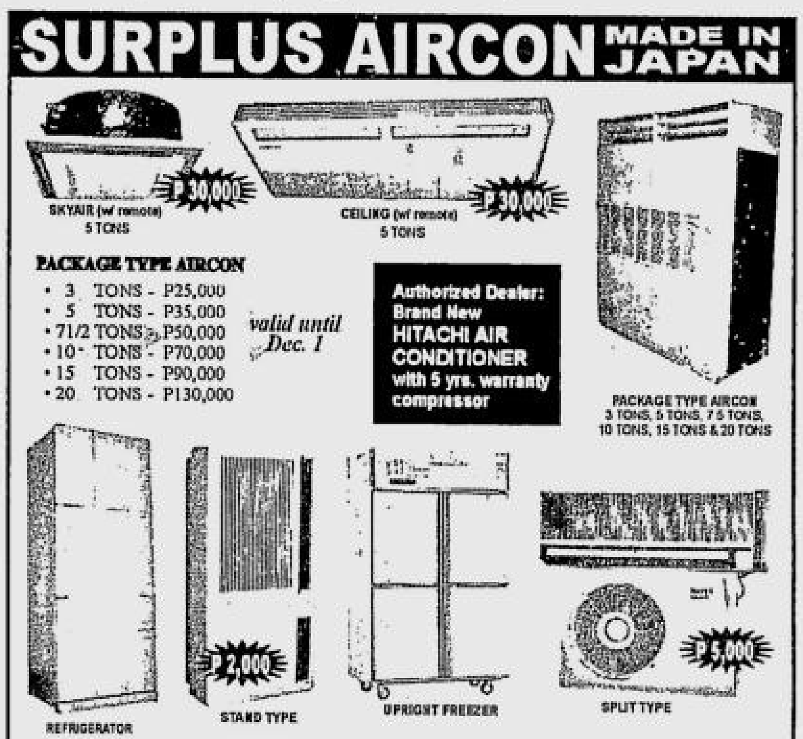

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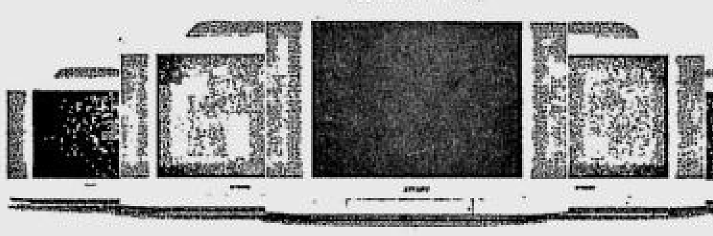

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ALMAREZ, FULGENCIO M.
BLk. 41 Lot 7 P-III EZ Malabon

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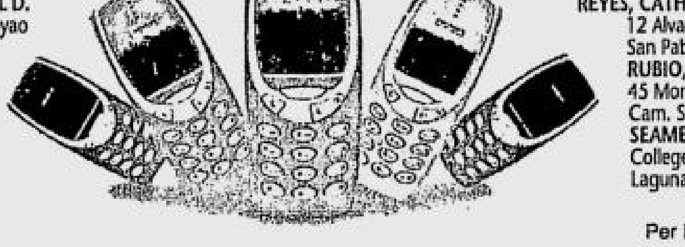

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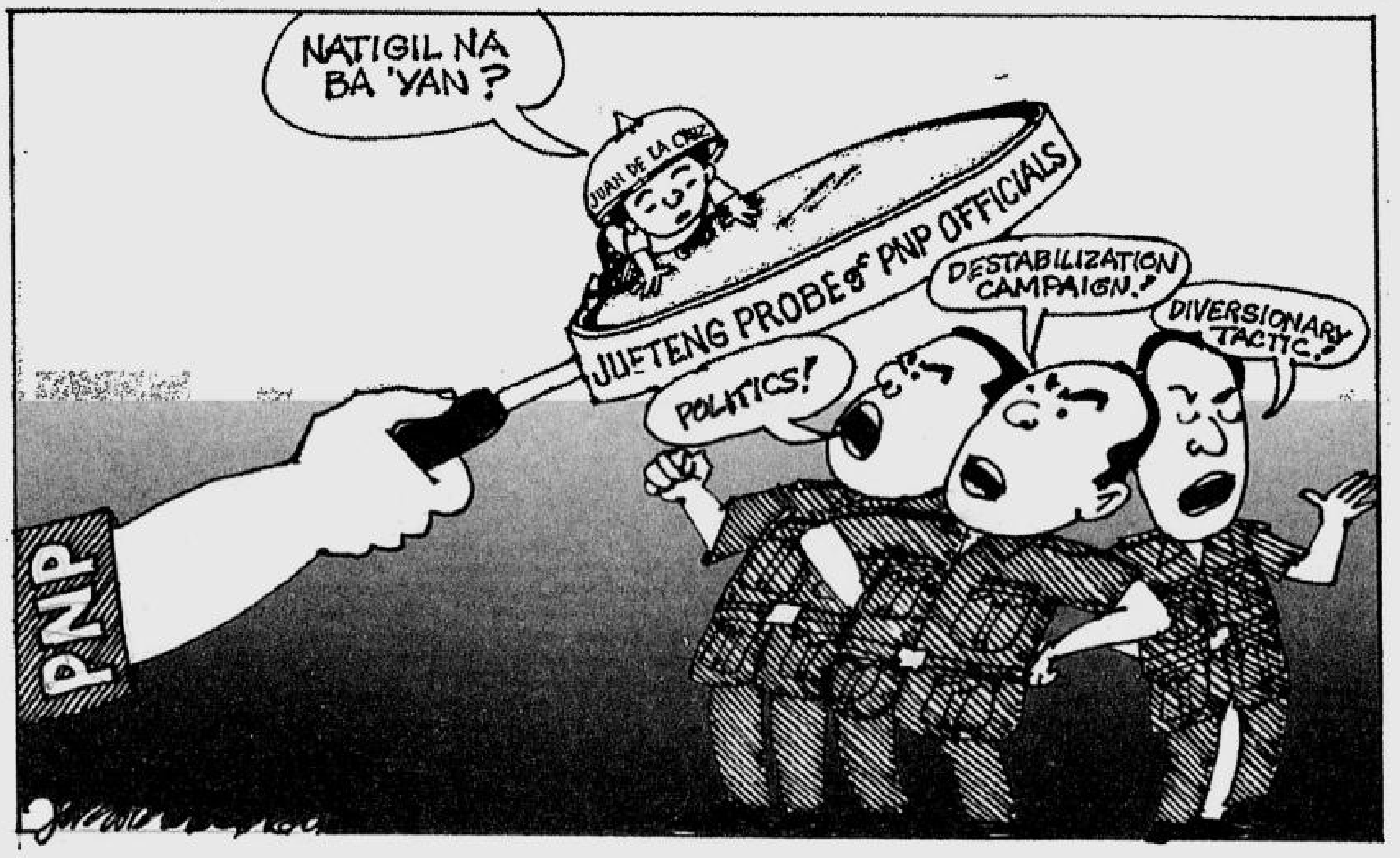
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Smoke bombs

EDITORIAL

TWICE in the last three months, Sen. Panfilo Lacson has taken the Senate floor hoping to explode a bomb that would blow up the Macapagal administration. The first was as harmless as a *watusi*: it was all crackle and thick smoke. The second could get some police fingers burned at worst, but Lacson will have to give more than his own word to make that happen.

In his first debut as Mr. Exposé, Lacson accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of diverting P250 million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to help four administration candidates in the senatorial elections last May. The money, he said, was used to fund radio programs promoting their candidacy and pay payola to several broadcasters to endorse them.

A number of things spoiled Lacson's debut. First, Senate reporters got hold of what was supposed to be a draft of a speech of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. containing substantially the same thing as Lacson's exposé. Pimentel disowned the draft, and it became clear that whoever was its author, he was shopping around for someone to deliver it. Second, Lacson failed to mention that the principal source of his tale of corruption was Robert Rivero, a former PCSO consultant who had been fired for allegedly demanding kickbacks from the producers of some radio programs sponsored by the PCSO. Lacson also forgot to mention that Rivero's wife was a member of his Senate staff. And then there was Lacson himself, facing a Senate investigation of far more serious charges, including his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, kidnapping, money laundering and murder.

So everyone looked at his exposé as nothing more than a smoke bomb intended to divert the public's attention away from the hearings in the Senate and the serious allegations being made against him and his men by a parade of witnesses. Even the Senate, which has been rather quick to initiate investigations lately, was reluctant to take his charges seriously. As a result, only his alleged partner in the plot, Sen. Edgardo Angara, picked up the case and called for hearings by his committee on constitutional amendments.

There could have been no better man in the Senate than Lacson to make the exposé on *jueteng* payoffs. As former chief of the Philippine National Police, Lacson was in familiar territory and he knew everyone there. But again he ruined it by not coming with clean hands.

On Tuesday, Lacson accused the director of the National Bureau of Investigation, all the PNP regional directors in Luzon, with the exception of the director for the National Capital Region, and several other high-ranking police officials of being on the payroll of *jueteng* lords. He also named the financiers and managers of the illegal numbers game in various provinces and cities of Luzon, among them former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson.

The problem with this list is that it includes too many names that Lacson would have included on his personal hate list—or hit list—if he were inclined to draw up one. For instance, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco is deeply involved in the investigation of various cases against Lacson and/or his men, including money laundering, drug trafficking, the Kuratong Baleleng massacre and the abduction and murder of publicist Bubby Dacer. Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, now police director for Pangasinan, was the project officer of the task force that investigated the alleged money-laundering activities of Lacson in the United States. There is no love lost between Lacson and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, regional director for Central Luzon. And Singson, of course, played a key role in the ouster of Lacson's friend and patron, Joseph Estrada, from the presidency. In fact, among the people Lacson probably loves to hate, only Col. Victor Corpus, chief of military intelligence, didn't make it to the list. All of which makes the list suspect.

This is not to say that *jueteng* doesn't exist or that police officials are not on the take. It's very likely that some, perhaps most, of those mentioned by Lacson are really coddlers of gamblers. *Jueteng,* like the poor, we always have with us, even at the time when Lacson was supposed to have run it to the ground. Otherwise, where would Singson have gotten the millions he regularly delivered to then President Joseph Estrada? Or how could the police have made 28,000 arrests for *jueteng*-related crimes since he was driven out of power?

But one has to be wary of people who have an axe to grind. Lacson should provide more proof if his exposé is going to produce anything useful to the nation. Otherwise he will look like a fool using his high office and the immunity it provides to strike back at his tormentors.

Missing ₱500,000 NPC trust fund found

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S good news for working journalists who are members of the National Press Club: The trust fund for journalists in training which I set up when I was NPC president years ago—and which I thought had been lost by succeeding presidents—has been found. It is locked in Land Bank bonds that will mature in 2003. It is worth P500,000. Invested properly, it should have grown to P2 million by now but it turned out that past NPC administrations had been collecting the interest earnings and using them as part of the operating fund. This is a violation of the trust agreement between the donors and the NPC.

The trust fund was donated by the Asian Wall Street Journal and banker Ray Orosa. The three trustees of the fund are Orosa, a representative of the Asian Wall Street Journal and the president of the NPC. Under the agreement I signed as NPC president with the donors, interest earnings of the fund will be used to pay for the training of one or two Filipino journalists every year with the AWSJ in Hong Kong.

The money was put in a high-earning account in a bank. Only two journalists, I think, were able to take advantage of the privilege because when I was no longer NPC president, the money was withdrawn from the bank and put in a financing company which collapsed soon after, in the aftermath of the Dewey Dee caper.

Luckily, the investment was backed by long-term Land Bank bonds, but the interest rate was very small. Had the fund been invested in Treasury Bills, the principal and accumulated interest would be in the vicinity of P2 million by now, considering the number of years and the periodic very high interest rates of T-bills. But not only was the Land Bank bond rate very low, a succession of NPC administrations withdrew the interest earnings and used them to pay NPC employees, all in violation of the trust agreement. Instead of the fund growing, therefore, the amount remained the same. Moreover, its value was eaten up by inflation. That half-million was a lot of money when the fund was established many years ago, but it is worth much less now because of inflation. And because its earnings (the principal cannot be touched) is to be converted into Hong Kong dollars for the board and lodging of the journalist in training with the AWSJ, its value is even less now due to the deterioration of the peso's foreign currency exchange rate.

Nevertheless, it is good news that the fund has not been lost, as has previously been suspected. When the Land Bank bonds mature in two years, it should be invested in T-bills or other high-yielding accounts, preferably in government-backed bonds. And it should be under the direct control of the three trustees and not the administration of the perennially cash-strapped NPC which changes every year. As has been shown, NPC administrations dipped their hands into it although they are not allowed to do that. That fund is exclusively for the training of Filipino journalists with the AWSJ in Hong Kong, and cannot be used for anything else.

* * *

The Luzon-wide blackout last Nov. 4 had one welcome result, at least here where I live. We were able to see again swarms of fireflies in the park, of which I've written a few times before.

When the lights went out that night, I went out of the front gate to look at the village in the darkness. It was very dark, except for lights shining through the windows of some houses. The stars seemed very bright in the darkness (one appreciates the stars more during blackouts), and it seemed that some of them had fallen to earth. There were twinkling lights among the trees in the vacant lots—fireflies.

I walked farther to where I could see a part of the park. There were more twinkling lights there. On a hunch, I got a flashlight from the house and went into the dark park.

At first, I saw only a sprinkling of fireflies flitting among the trees. Then from far off, I glimpsed many twinkling lights in the bamboo grove across the stream. I crossed the bridge over the stream to the bamboo grove. And there they were in abundance. And as in previous encounters with them, they were flashing their lights in unison, as though the grove was a huge Christmas tree. How apt, I thought, since Christmas was fast approaching.

Undoubtedly, they had been there the previous nights flashing their lights, but we did not notice them because of the bright Meralco lights. And we would not have noticed them on Nov. 4 had there been no blackout.

Thank God for blackouts.

* * *

There will be other stars tonight in our village, Mira-Nila Homes, specifically in the Lady of Consolacion Parish Church. Starting at 7:30 tonight, five human stars will hold an operatic concert, called "An Affair in November," in the church. They are soprano Elaine Lim-Lee, the three tenors Dennis Ting, Rudy Cundangan and Rudy Farol, and Mira-Nila's very own Agnes Liao.

According to the souvenir program, Ms Lim-Lee, the featured soloist, is an opera performer major at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada under the tutelage of Heather Thomson-Price. She joined Canadian music festivals and won several awards and scholarships in both local and national categories.

"She was an active member of the UBC Opera Ensemble, where she performed the roles of Brigitta in Tchaikovsky's 'Lolanta,' Ophelia in 'Hamlet,' Carlotte in 'The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein' and Sarah Good in 'The Crucible.' She was one of the soloists in the 'Karmina Burana' production in Vancouver. She was a member of the UBC Choral Union, and has participated in their choir concerts like Mendelssohn's 'Elija' and opera concerts with Ben Heppner and Judith Frost. Recently, she staged her debut concert at the Philamlife Theater."

Changes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DID the Department of Education, Culture and Sports do well to change the "Panatang Makabayan"?

Well, my own guiding principle there is that not everything is improved by change. Things that have become institutions by and in themselves certainly are not. For all their archaism, or even flaws, they are best left well enough alone, or retained in their pristine form. I agree entirely with the decision of the American film authorities to forbid the colorizing of such classics as "Citizen Kane," many old black-and-white movies now having been colorized. I was astounded at one point to see "The Fastest Gun Alive" on American TV in color. Even there, I thought the color detracted rather than improved. It made the movie less gritty and Glenn Ford a little less brooding.

I don't know that even streets ought always to be renamed. Names such as Calle Real, Sta. Cruz, etc., certainly should not. "Real," quite incidentally, is the No. 1 street in this country, many small towns having a Calle Real as their main road. Streets named after people should be renamed only with much trepidation. I don't know that Governor General Forbes ought to be forgotten completely in favor of Arsenio Lacson, however a main thoroughfare in Manila truly ought to be named after the best mayor that city ever had. And though there is wisdom in naming a street after Claro M. Recto, one of the country's foremost nationalists, I do not see why that had to be done at the expense of Azcarraga. M. de la Fuente is nice, but even nicer is Trabajo, though *trabajo* is not the name of a person but the Spanish word for work, or labor.

The principle, as I see it, should be: By all means let us honor our heroes, not all of whom belong to the remote past, but not at the expense of making that past even more remote, or inaccessible. Those streets are our living links to the past, our Ariadne's thread in a cave ruled by the Minotaur of forgetfulness.

But while at this, I agree entirely with Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran when they protest several main thoroughfares in Metro Manila still harboring the name of Ferdinand Marcos. There I draw the line too. People ought not to be rewarded for their misdeeds by having streets named after them, they ought to be punished by having only urinals named after them. With or without flushes, to remind people of what went down the drain at one point in their lives. If you had endured prison under martial law, like Ocampo, you too would find the implicit tribute an explicit iniquity.

Institutions like the National Anthem should be off-limits zone. They have a significance beyond their intrinsic values, a significance that is devalued by change, even if it patently improves the aesthetics. Very few of the world's national anthems are aesthetic standouts, but that has not been a reason for the peoples of the world to change them. True enough, the Philippine National Anthem is a little ragged along the way: To this day, I do not know why we should put the emphasis on *"dagat"* in *"sa dagat at bundok"* on the second rather than the first syllable. I remember that there was a version of it sometime ago that corrected that mistake—the version was sung in the last full show of movie houses—but it never prospered.

I myself am all for interpreting "Lupang Hinirang" in various ways. Why should there be only one way to sing it? The "Star-Spangled Banner" is interpreted every which way by black singers before boxing bouts, and I don't know that they trivialize it that way. They do the same thing to "Amazing Grace" in funerals, and the bereaved do not feel particularly insulted by it. I remember disagreeing with my friend, the late Redentor Romero, when he spoke about Maya Valdez desecrating the National Anthem in a rock concert before martial law by singing it rock-style. It was a time of experimentation that produced not always embarrassing results. To this day, I revel in Jimi Hendrix's version of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

As to changing "Lupang Hinirang" completely, that is another matter entirely. I should really hope George Canseco et al. abandon that quest altogether and apply their energies instead on writing "Tagalog classics," where their talents are better suited.

The "Panatang Makabayan" is a more "iffy" thing. As institutions go, it is by no means on par with "Lupang Hinirang," though it dates back a pretty long time. I remember reciting it when I was in elementary school, without understanding any of it. Indeed, without taking time to ponder any of it. It was like reciting the "Our Father," something one did routinely to get by. Though while at this, I don't know that the modern version of the "Our Father" improves on the old one. On aesthetics alone, the sheer musicality of "hallowed by thy name" and "for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory" beats their modern counterparts by a mile. The revised "Panatang Makabayan" doesn't detract from the old one, but it doesn't add much to it either. If it serves any substantial purpose, it is only in that it draws attention at this point to the words of the "Panata," the same words I—and a host of other Filipinos—never took time to ponder. Elementary public school teachers should have a field day in the next few months, or years, explaining the changes that were made to the "Panata," and why. Why instead of the elementary school pupil vowing to grow up healthy, happy and useful, he now vows to grow up healthy, diligent and honorable. Why instead of the pupil vowing to be nationalistic as a general principle, he now vows specifically to study, pray and serve the country.

Which is all very good. But the question is: How long before the changes get factored into our collective consciousness—or collective unconscious—and turned into mere words again? Words uttered mindlessly at the beginning of the day to get by, or before watching animé?

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

A transitional government in Kabul

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SWIFT collapse of Kabul last Tuesday against the Northern Alliance military offensive is a political turning point in the United States-led coalition's war on terrorism. It alters the political balance at least in Afghanistan by toppling the 5-year-old Taliban regime, although we must be warned that the Taliban has not yet been military annihilated.

The Northern Alliance has now gained control of northern and eastern sections of the country, but territorial occupation is less important than the political implications of the fall of the capital. While the Taliban forces disguised their rout from Kabul with the claim that they merely executed a "tactical retreat" to move to grounds they could effectively defend, the claim cannot conceal their military defeat in the north.

The swiftness of the Northern Alliance's offensive and the equally rapid crumbling of the Taliban's military defenses in the north were stunning even to the United States and its western allies, especially Britain. The scale of the military collapse is underlined by the fact that the offensive began on Friday at the Taliban stronghold Mazar-e-Sharif near the Uzbekistan border. Following the overrunning of the Taliban garrison there, a string of cities fell rapidly—Termez, Konduz, then Kabul. The Taliban forces put up resistance in these cities, but in Kabul, they fled without a fight.

No one should have the illusion that the Northern Alliance, which is the Afghan proxy of the US coalition, could have made the swift push if the US aerial and missile attacks had not pulverized the ground to pave the way for the Northern Alliance's offensive. The offensive was launched after more than a month of intense bombings which demolished the Taliban's aerial defense, missile and anti-missile sites, military facilities and installations visible on ground. Before the bombings, there had been a military stalemate between the rebel forces and the Taliban forces. Military experts correctly assess that the retreat of the Taliban from Kabul and the north was a successful demonstration of the use of high-tech military weapons in a hostile terrain which trapped the Soviet Union's forces in the Afghan civil wars of the 1990s.

The Taliban has now retreated to the south, heartland of the Pashtun ethnic tribe which is the main support of the regime, and its main city, Kandahar, near the Pakistan border, is now the target of a new offensive and the intensified US bombing. The Taliban—as well as Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network—is now on the run. Bin Laden's space for sanctuary has shrunk and the control of the north by the Northern Alliance taps intelligence information that could facilitate the tracking down of Bin Laden. Bin Laden has lost a protective government in Kabul that had given him sanctuary.

In the capture of Kabul, the United States has lost control of events but this has been made up by the space opened for the entry of diplomatic means to establish a broad-based transitional government in Kabul, composed of all Afghan ethnic groups, including the Pashtuns but excluding the Taliban.

The Northern Alliance ignored the plea by President George W. Bush to stay out of Kabul until the framework of a broad-based government has been established. But the Northern Alliance seized the momentum created by the bombings and in this regard, the offensive was a fortunate military decision on the part of the Afghans themselves.

The Northern Alliance provided the bulk of the ground troops, making less critical the deployment of US and British special forces on the treacherous terrain of Afghanistan. The retreat of the Taliban forces to the south, where they could hide in the caves and underground networks, spares the United States from bombing civilian population centers where members of the Taliban mixed themselves. The bombing of installations and weapons hidden inside civilian buildings resulted in civilian casualties that eroded international support for the US-led strikes on Afghanistan. With a more focused bombings in less-populated areas in the South, the widening criticism of the bombings may now be muted.

The Northern Alliance forces have heeded calls by the US allies and Pakistan from entering Kabul to take monopoly of power, although some of its troops have marched into the city, amid reports of revenge killings and massacres. International pressure—including that from Islamic countries such as Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan, and from the United Nations to declare Kabul a demilitarized city to allow the formation of a transitional government—has mounted.

If Kabul had not been captured, this diplomatic option would not have opened, and the attack on Afghanistan would have been resolved militarily in possibly a long war. The objective of the United States remains—i.e., flushing out Bin Laden and dismantling al-Qaida—but this campaign no longer requires bombing Afghanistan "to the stone age," allowing the Afghans to settle politically their decades of conflict, but this time under the umbrella of the United Nations and the moderate Islamic countries.

The successful Northern Alliance's military offensive was an unexpected windfall for the United States. The expulsion of the Taliban from the north opens more convenient routes for the flow of aid supplies and military material to support the Northern Alliance. It makes less critical for the United States and Britain to deploy large numbers of troops.

But the downside—which is a big problem—is to rein in the triumphant Northern Alliance from dominating power in Afghanistan. The intervention, however, of the Islamic countries—which are willing to provide an international peacekeeping force pending a political settlement—and of the United Nations are too powerful for the Northern Alliance to ignore. There are signs the Northern Alliance is receptive to calls for power sharing. A broad-based government in Kabul offers a nonviolent option to isolate Bin Laden, to deny him sanctuary in Afghanistan and to scale down the bombings on one of the poorest and most wretched countries on Earth. President Bush was overtaken by the swift-moving events in Afghanistan which has reduced the importance of the United States in a political settlement.

The country observes a Muslim holiday

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DEPENDING on which astronomical interpretation they follow, Muslims in the Philippines either began the observance of the Ramadhan yesterday, or are starting it today. As Samira Ali Gutoc wrote in her article yesterday, the first day of Ramadhan, known as *pugang*, is determined by Islamic religious leaders based on their sighting of the moon.

The end of Ramadhan, known as Eid'l Fitr, has just been declared a national holiday. When I met her at the recent conference on "Media and Transformative Leadership," Samira told me how this simple declaration, the first time a Muslim holiday has received official recognition in this country, has made so many Filipino Muslims happy and proud.

Like many other Christians, I associated Ramadhan only with the fasting, from sunrise to sunset, that was required of all believers. It was interesting to note, as Samira said, that Muslim religious leaders have been bemoaning the steady decline in observance of this religious edict. I wonder if fasting during the holy month of Ramadhan will go the way of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

I remember our household scrupulously observing the "no meat on Fridays" rule in my childhood. Abstinence was a rule I secretly relished because I loved seafood and we could always count on our mother to fill our table with fat crabs, sweet shrimps and huge bangus to "make up" for the lack of meat. Fasting, though I dreaded, even if in the Catholic liturgical calendar we were required to skip meals only on holy days of obligation. And after Vatican II, their number was considerably reduced. But once the strictures were loosened, all hell broke loose. I wonder how many Filipino Catholics still observe meatless Fridays and fasting on holy feasts?

* * *

ANYWAY, Samira's article makes clear that Ramadhan, which could be likened to the Christian season of Lent, also marked by atonement, reflection and sacrifice, is also an occasion for celebration and merry-making. But only before the sun rises and after the sun sets.

In the hours before dawn, Muslim families are up and about preparing the morning meal, which should be consumed before they say the early morning prayer. After sunset, there is even more feasting, as special dishes are prepared and families exchange gifts and visit the less fortunate. The celebrations escalate at the close of Ramadhan, the Feast of Eid'l Fitr, where Muslim families dress up in their ceremonial raiment, gather at mosques, then repair to their homes for an even grander banquet.

Christian Filipino women working as domestics in the Middle East, it is said, had complained particularly about their workload during Ramadhan. They were required to be up and about as early as 2 a.m., preparing the pre-dawn meal, and remain at their posts until well past midnight, as their employers broke the fast with a sumptuous banquet. Perhaps this was what led to a policy (is it still in force?) to deploy only Muslim Filipinas as domestics to "Saudi" and other predominantly Muslim countries. It is one thing to have to endure hardship as part of your employment contract, quite another to accept it as part of one's cherished traditions and as an expression of faith.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, it has taken the horrors of Sept. 11 and the bombing of Afghanistan to turn the spotlight on Islam, and to encourage a reexamination of common biases against Islamic tenets and of stereotypes of Muslims.

One of the most enduring myths and stereotypes about Islam and Muslims is that it is a faith that oppresses women, and that Muslim women have no choice but to accept and endure their subordination.

At a workshop on "Muslim Laws, Population and Reproductive Rights" that I took part in recently, it was pointed out that a study of the historical background of the beginnings of Islam would show that far from oppressing women, Islam was founded "to uplift the status of women" among the Arabic tribes where the Prophet first preached.

Among the "reforms" that the Prophet and his followers instituted was the placing of greater value on girls ("laws were laid down forbidding the practice of burying alive baby girls"), the raising of women "to a place of dignity and honor," and even the "regulating" of men's sexual behavior, with the prophet admonishing them to "live with women honorably."

The practice of multiple marriages or polygamy has been cited as one Islamic teaching that is unfair and unjust to women. But contrary to popular belief, said the Muslim women taking part in the workshop, "monogamy is the law and the norm, with polygamy allowed only as a remedial measure." Polygamy, they said, was introduced when, as a consequence of successive wars which left so many men dead, their widows and children were left bereft of support and protection. Any man, therefore, who had the material resources and energy to look after more than one family was allowed to marry a second, third or fourth time, provided the first wife consented, and none of his wives or children were deprived of what was properly due them.

* * *

TOO often, so-called "religious" restrictions on women turn out to have no basis in the Koran, the teachings of Allah as revealed to the Prophet, or in the *hadith*. The last is the compilation of accounts by the Prophet's followers that relate the teachings of the Koran to matters of everyday life, even to matters commonly thought of as too intimate for public consumption.

The Muslim participants in the workshop expressed the need for popularizing a "feminist," or at least gender-sensitive interpretation of their scripture, since male religious as well as political leaders had been using the sacred texts to keep women subordinate. Well, they are not alone. Christian and Jewish women have likewise begun to reinterpret sacred texts, to return to the "Word" and its original message, shorn of the years and layers of interpretation that have been used to keep us women in "our" place.

The Povedano manuscripts

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the "treasures" of the National Library during the battle for Manila in 1945 was the so-called Povedano manuscripts. The Povedano manuscript dated 1572 was doubly rare because it was the only Philippine document known to be written on parchment rather than paper. That alone would have made me suspicious, but then if you are anxious to acquire the manuscript, you tend to ignore warning signs. The "Historia de la Isla de Negros" by Diego Lope Povedano was described by National Library Director James Robertson as, "exceedingly valuable...for the pre-Spanish history of the Philippines, for besides items of historical and ethnological interest, it contains a key to the transcription of the old Bisayan characters in use at the time of the Spanish discovery."

Despite the destruction of the original in 1945, photographs of each page of this manuscript can be found in the Robertson Papers in Duke University. The manuscript contains: legends on the origin of the world and place-names, material on marriage customs, religion, etc. at the time of the Spanish contact. This also came with a manuscript map of Negros also destroyed in 1945. These were supposedly found in a lead box uncovered in 1833 when the walls of the Himamaylan prison were torn down. The box contained, among other things, 14 gold coins, a pre-Spanish Visayan calendar, *anting-antings* and assorted documents. Then there is a complicated story about the things being in the possession of Governor Valdevieso y Morquecho, and how they were stolen by a servant, given to a German, stolen again and in 1913 was back with the servant of the governor. Marco (*see below*) sent these and other manuscripts to the National Library in Manila.

Strangely, another Povedano manuscript surfaced in 1951. This time, it was in a masteral thesis of a certain Rebecca Ignacio at the Far Eastern University and was dated 1578 and titled, "Las antiguas leyendas de la isla de Negros." This and a few other manuscripts supposedly by Povedano were acquired by Mauro Garcia, thus in the 1950s we had not one but four Povedano manuscripts. The common denominator in both the 1572 and 1578 Povedano manuscripts was the source—Jose E. Marco.

According to Marco, the Povedano manuscript was in the care of a certain Fr. Operiano Rodriguez, OSA of Cebu. Then there are conflicting stories about the manuscript. Ignacio narrated that:

"It was Father Rodriguez who opened an old trunk and lifted out some precious documents piece by piece. Having first learned from him the nature of the manuscript we were now after, my anticipation was one of intense thrill. The moment came: there at the bottom lay the manuscript covered with scraps of paper which had yellowed with the years.

"My inquiries directed to the good father regarding the history of the document and how he came into possession of it were more of a disappointment than anything else. Father Rodriguez preferred to be mum and taciturn about the matter, and I have reason to keep until the right occasion whatever I learned in that direction if I must be true to my word and fair to my informants."

Marco said otherwise. In 1951 he claimed he borrowed the manuscript from Father Rodriguez, copied it and completed an English translation which he gave Ignacio for her thesis. In 1954 Marco's copy given to Ignacio was made by a convent clerk because Ignacio's father would not pay the amount the priest wanted for the original. Marco acquired the original that came from the Museo Biblioteca de Ultramar in Spain (there was a property mark on the title page). He claimed that during the Spanish Civil War, the Museo was looted and the manuscript was returned to the Philippines and found its way to Cebu! The point person here should be Fr. Operiano Rodriguez who seems to have been a fictional character made up by Ignacio and Marco.

In 1954 the Philippine Studies Program of the University of Chicago published the Ignacio text of the Povedano manuscript of 1578. Scholars who read it began to smell a rat and in 1964, the distribution of the Povedano manuscript as published by the Philippine Studies Program was withheld "due to questions of authenticity of MSS source."

Mauro Garcia acquired the manuscripts and started an investigation into their origin. He did so independently of H. Otley Beyer who had desperately wanted the manuscripts for his Filipiniana collection. Beyer said the manuscripts were authentic and that they originated from old convents in the Visayas looted during the Philippine Revolution. Upon closer scrutiny, Garcia concluded that the manuscripts were copies, not older than 20 years old, and that they were treated to look old. Worse, a close reading of the texts revealed glaring errors in writing and fact!

Marco and his Povedano manuscripts had fooled Robertson of the National Library and continued to do so for almost 50 years until he was found out. Garcia and Beyer, in their time, were considered authorities on rare Filipiniana. Why were they fooled? Aside from being scholars desperately seeking a pre-colonial Philippine document, they were competing collectors blinded by the thrill of the chase.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu.edu.ph

Is despair or hope waiting for OFWs returning home?

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
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BECAUSE of the ongoing strikes against Afghanistan by the US military, some hundreds of Filipino workers in Pakistan have recently returned. Prior to the current conflict on terrorism, a newspaper report said that some 200,000 Filipinos in Saudi Arabia were not able to renew their contracts. More recently, a report said that 300,000 overseas Filipino workers in Malaysia fear losing their jobs and having to come home.

Despite these circumstances, however, many OFWs do not want to go back home because the opportunities are scarce here. This is why President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in a radio program last July, told an OFW caller to stay put in her country of work—obviously because of the country's struggling economic fundamentals.

These developments reveal a growing trend in international migration—return migration. As the country is all but willing to export more workers abroad, sadly the state is not solidly ready to ensure a productive return by these Filipinos.

Development analysts in Asia see a bleak future for migrant workers' chances of finding productive work upon their return. The most recent analysis came from the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Asia-Pacific, which said in its 2001 survey that returning Asian migrants will encounter rough sailing back home.

Much earlier, Philippine-based Italian missionary Fr. Graziano Battistella, in a 1997 talk on Philippine return migration in Barcelona, wrote that "Asian countries in general have not had policies or programs for reintegrating migrants." This is because return migration, the Scalabrinian priest added, "has been insufficiently considered by policymakers, administrators and researchers."

Economic and social reintegration programs are the weakest areas in the management of Philippine migration. Even while Republic Act 8042, or the Magna Carta for Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos, provided for reintegration, these are hardly enforced with real effectiveness.

The social aspect of the Filipino migrants' return is probably the more troublesome aspect. Aside from termination of employment or unavoidable circumstances such as the ongoing strife between the United States and Afghanistan, some of the reasons for the return of OFWs, according to a research by the International Catholic Migration Commission are severe isolation, homesickness, loneliness, boredom, insecurity and anxiety for professional development.

But that is just on the side of the migrants abroad. The migration of either the husband or wife, or both, exacts a toll on the relationship of members of the OFW families left behind here. Frequent effects include marital separation, attitudinal problems among OFW children, and problems experienced by relatives and caretakers in supervising the family left behind.

This is how complex the return migration problem is. This also shows that to ensure the smooth return by OFWs, the economic and social aspects of return migration must be anticipated and prepared for well. Who provides the strategy? Can the government, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, do it despite criticism that its reintegration program has not made any significant headway?

We can also see the lack of foresight by the state, which looked at migration in terms of the remittances that save a struggling economy. Have our country's anti-poverty strategists thought of return migration? We cannot just set aside these returning migrants, especially those who did not benefit from their overseas contract work.

This calls for the acceleration of effective economic and social reintegration programs. The front runners in this regard are the civil society organizations, both based here and abroad. The Asian Migrant Centre (AMC), based in Hong Kong and headed by Rex Varona, an Ilonggo, has made some headway through its migrants savings and alternative investment (MSAI) program.

After the AMC's second regional consultation on reintegration on August 2000, there has been a growing number of countries and their NGOs, POs and remittance savings groups involved in the MSAI, a strategic savings mobilization program. The AMC's MSAI approach does grass-roots organizing, enterprise development, training and capacity-building, and networking with intermediaries such as banks. The AMC will soon formulate an Asian framework on reintegration.

The AMC is also proud to say that the NGOs in the Philippines are leading the Asian region's efforts on reintegration. Among these NGOs is Unlad Kabayan, formed in 1995, that adopts the MSAI approach in provinces with returning migrant workers. Unlad Kabayan, led by director May-ann Villalba, has successfully facilitated the setting up of returning migrants' businesses in Cagayan Valley (a school supplies shop), Iloilo (a general merchandise store), and Bohol (a free range chicken and yam processing).

Within the Church, the Philippine bishops' Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (Ecmi) has launched micro-enterprise activities in the parishes. Meanwhile, in San Pablo City, the Balikabayani Foundation utilizes a savings mobilization scheme so that migrant families concentrated in their area can effectively use their remittances. One touching approach Balikabayani also employs is the use of videoconferencing to establish contact between the family left behind and the migrant worker.

As for the social aspect of reintegration, the Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino provides welfare and protection activities to families left behind. They currently have a nursery school for OFW children. For returning former entertainers from Japan, the Development Action for Women Network offers therapeutic reintegration activities. Back in San Pablo, the six-year-old community-based NGO Atikha Inc. offers counseling and art and performance workshops. Atikha has also pre-tested a course on the effects of migration and values formation for children in some San Pablo schools, with endorsement from the education department.

These efforts by civil society groups show the inefficiency of the state to provide for the needs of returning migrants. But these also reveal how important it is for social development workers, policymakers and implementors, academics and the migrants and their families themselves to look at migration in the long run. Despite the fact that labor migration helps ameliorate our country's gross national product, when the workers return, they all go back to where they came from—poverty, deprivation, unemployment and literally despair.

The world is bracing itself for the reintegration challenge. The International Organization for Migration released last year a book titled, "Return Migration: A Journey of Hope and Despair?" Probably the first comprehensive material that speaks of return migration, the book offers articles to answer that rhetorical question, which was perhaps given for governments and civil society groups to ponder.

For us in the Philippines, this is where everybody must work together to not only implement savings mobilization programs or counseling sessions, but more strategic alternative strategies to offset the adverse effects of return migration. Anti-poverty strategists should finally consider and map out plans to put in effect working national and local reintegration programs, especially for returning migrants and their families situated in the provinces.

Does the country have alternatives for our returning "modern-day heroes"? It will now depend on the state, civil society, academics and the migrants and their families left behind to work together and offer strategic alternatives to migration.

Or else, the journey back home will be filled with much more despair and hopelessness.

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No diplomatic faux pas

I WISH to refer to the article titled, "Spanish coup, Laya's legacy and Veep's faux pas" which appeared on P. E6 of the Lifestyle section in the Oct. 29 issue of the INQUIRER and to correct the misimpression it conveys on the circumstances of the luncheon invitation for July 3, 2001 extended to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. by Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele of Belgium, on behalf of all the ambassadors of European Union countries in the Philippines.

There was no diplomatic faux pas here. It is not true that Guingona accepted the invitation and "then failed to show up without even a by-your-leave," only to turn up later at a reception tendered by Ambassador Salah Noori Hitemi Al-Samarmad of Iraq.

Guingona had indeed accepted Van Remoortele's invitation, but had to request that it be postponed as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had suddenly called for a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on the date and time the luncheon was scheduled. The advice from Malacañang was that the President wished to be in consultation with her Cabinet on a very frequent basis in all the days leading up to her State of the Nation Address in the latter part of July. The request for postponement of the luncheon and its coinciding with a Cabinet meeting were conveyed to Van Remoortele before the date of the event. The Department of Foreign Affairs is not remiss in this kind of thing.

There was no occasion for Guingona to have failed to show up at the July 3 luncheon only to turn up later in the day for the Iraqi National Day reception. Iraq's National Day was on July 17.—**LOURDES G. MORALES, assistant secretary, Office of European Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

Antithesis to GMA policy on appointments

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo promised the Filipino people that her administration will observe good governance, transparency and "no relatives to the fourth degree" are to be appointed in the government. This promise is not kept in the case of Philippine Sports Commission Chair Carlos Tuason. In fact, Tuason is the perfect antithesis of the Macapagal administration's policy.

Because of bad governance on the part of Tuason, charges were filed against him with the Office of the Ombudsman for graft and corruption by the Alliance of Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines (Acap). Among the charges were Tuason's settlement of an unpaid account in the amount of P690,000, incurred by the defunct "Project: Gintong Alay (PGA)" in 1988, two years prior to the enactment of Republic Act 6847, creating the PSC. Section 25 of this law prescribes the transfer of functions and assets of the PGA to the PSC, except its liabilities. Previous PSC chairpersons Cecil Hechanova, the undersigned, Mel Lopez and Philip Ella Juico did not settle any obligations of the PGA during our respective terms. Additional graft charges are being prepared by the Acap against Tuason.

In their meeting with the President at Malacañang, the Acap reported the failure of Tuason to attend to the basic needs of athletes such as inadequate allowances, poor medical services (athletes have to pay for treatment of injuries at the PSC sports medicine center and will be reimbursed later, oftentimes months later), poor food, broken-down living quarters, lack of vitamins and late delivery of uniforms and equipment. The poor management style of Tuason was likewise cited as the cause of the dismal performance of our athletes in international competitions where for the first time in many past Olympiads, the Philippines did not win a medal in the Olympics and got the poorest record ever in the Southeast Asian Games compared with that of previous PSC chairpersons. This should have been reason enough for the President to revamp the PSC right after the Southeast Asian Games last September as she promised.

There is an existing order of Tuason that no one can have access to records of the PSC without his approval. No one can examine the minutes of board meetings and most especially the transactions of the Partnership Program for Sports for All (PPSA), a trust fund set aside from the rentals of facilities and donations from the private sector which include foreign currency contributions from abroad. When former Commissioner Tisha Abundo was still a member of the PSC Board, she wanted to obtain copies of the minutes of meetings. Board secretary Julia Llanto refused to give them to her, citing the order of Tuason. This incident and the existing order of Tuason constitute a clear violation of the principle of transparency and the right of anyone to have access to public records.

As a first degree cousin of First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, Tuason should have long been removed from the PSC chairmanship in consonance with the President's promise that there will be no relatives to be appointed in her administration. It has been almost 10 months since the Acap called the attention of the President to the urgency of removing Tuason from the PSC. How long will it take the President to keep her promise in this particular matter which is slowing down our preparations for the coming Asian, SEA and Olympic Games and is demoralizing many coaches and athletes in the national pool. Almost 70 percent of all medalists in the last SEA Games are members of the Acap.—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc., 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

North, not South Cotabato

I AM protesting the erroneous item in the Nov. 13 issue of your newspaper. On the front page is a report from your PDI Mindanao Bureau that reads: "5-year-old seized in South Cotabato." Nothing in the entire news article, however, mentions about South Cotabato. The kidnapping occurred in Pikit, North Cotabato.

I cannot understand how this error happened. Visually, *S* is so different from N. We are so concerned about this matter since South Cotabato will be hosting an affair on Oct. 15. Our officials are doing their best to maintain peace and order in our province, and it takes our favorite newspaper one very avoidable error to put their efforts to naught!—**BERNARDITA I. VALLAR, Koronadal City, South Cotabato**

WE were wrong. Please accept our apologies. Also for not being able to come out sooner with your letter as this section of the INQUIRER is printed in advance.—**Ed.**

LETTERS INQUIRER

Greater involvement in community development

I LEFT the Philippines in 1984 and have had several opportunities to visit in 1995, 1998 and most recently last month. In the course of these visits, I was amazed at the many changes that have transformed Metro Manila over the last 17 years. Huge malls with well-stocked shops proliferate like mushrooms and the same can be said about restaurants and fast-food chains. Thanks to the dollars of overseas Filipino workers, an emerging middle class seems to be fuelling the growth of these establishments which is good for the economy. However, this increased economic activity can translate to real socio-economic progress only if the resulting garbage, traffic congestion and pollution are effectively managed. This is not the case.

Perhaps business groups should have a wider perspective and help the government solve these problems with financial and technical assistance. After all, it is in their business interest to do so. In countries like the United States, businesses actively participate in community development projects because it makes good business sense in the long term. Perhaps influential groups like the Philippine Business for Social Progress can take the lead in this regard.

I am a naturalized Australian citizen and now reside overseas but I was born and raised in Manila and it saddens me to see the city slowly decaying. I hope a rational solution can soon be agreed upon to permanently address these problems.—**ORLANDO V. MORALES, Sydney, Australia**

Propaganda war against Ifmas

DURING the long weekend dedicated to the memory of the dear departed, some people chose to spend the days pushing their dubious agenda by passing around in cemeteries reprints of newspaper columns impugning the grant of Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) to a consortium whose formation had been spurred by the governments of New Zealand and Finland.

We see from this the dead giveaway of propaganda war rather than open dialogue. Still, we welcome the chance afforded us to clear up distorted facts and wrong premises.

The decision to grant the Ifmas of 120,000 was earlier endorsed by my predecessors, Environment Secretary Victor Ramos and Antonio Cerilles. These were based on solid studies that I found sound and practicable. Where there is correct basis for judgment, I think it proper to continue past programs. On the other hand, when called for, I don't hesitate to revoke past decisions. I revoked the Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) granted by Cerilles where honest technical evaluation points to endangering human lives and the environment as in the case of Mindex in Occidental Mindoro and the Pulupandan Coal Plant in Negros Occidental, because these are environmentally unsustainable.

What is strategic is the fact that both New Zealand and Finland are committed to assist the program with technical and investment assistance targeted to a volume of $800 million that can make the Caraga Region the first wood-based economic zone in the country.

The Ifma is an innovation visualized in the 1990 Philippine Forestry Master Plan (FMP) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which endorsed as solution to the loss of our forests the planting of trees under the concept of sustainable development. The FMP advocates reforesting 500,000 hectares so the country can attain wood self-sufficiency.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources hopes to go beyond this and targets 1.5 million denuded forests or 10 percent of the country's 15.8 million hectares of forestlands to take care of our local needs as well as enable the country to export. This goal is achievable even in the short term since it takes only 10 years for trees to be harvestable under tropical conditions whereas in New Zealand and Finland it takes twice that much time.

By achieving self-sufficiency in wood and wood products but also export capability as well, we hope to end our multibillion-peso imports of pulp and paper and some $60 million of wood and timber annually.

It is in this context that the ADB encouraged Finland and New Zealand, two of the world's leading wood exporters, to invest in industrial tree plantation in Caraga. Happily, the DENR has envisioned the formation of a Caraga Forest Plantation Corridor (CFPC) in 684,000 hectares and the consortium area happens to be in the corridor. The CFPC is a flagship project of the Caraga Region.

The Finnish and New Zealand governments have been pushing for this industrial project since the time of then Secretary Ramos who issued two Ifmas, and was further pursued by my immediate predecessor, Secretary Cerilles, who approved two other Ifmas and I am actively promoting state-of-the-art scientific forest plantation technology including cloning.

The ADB has pushed for the industrial tree plantation concept having been burned in the past when it extended multimillion-dollar loans for reforestation by the government that all failed due to incompetence and corruption.

Some sectors are questioning the legitimacy of the five firms. The incorporation papers of these firms passed the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Board of Investments.

Critics have expressed skepticism over the project, invoking past experience as an unalterable pattern in the scheme of things they fail to see here that it is not the government implementing the project and spending the money. Foreign investments are being channeled to private business concerns. I hope they can look beyond the detritus of past failures and marvel at the question, "What if this new venture succeeds?"—**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

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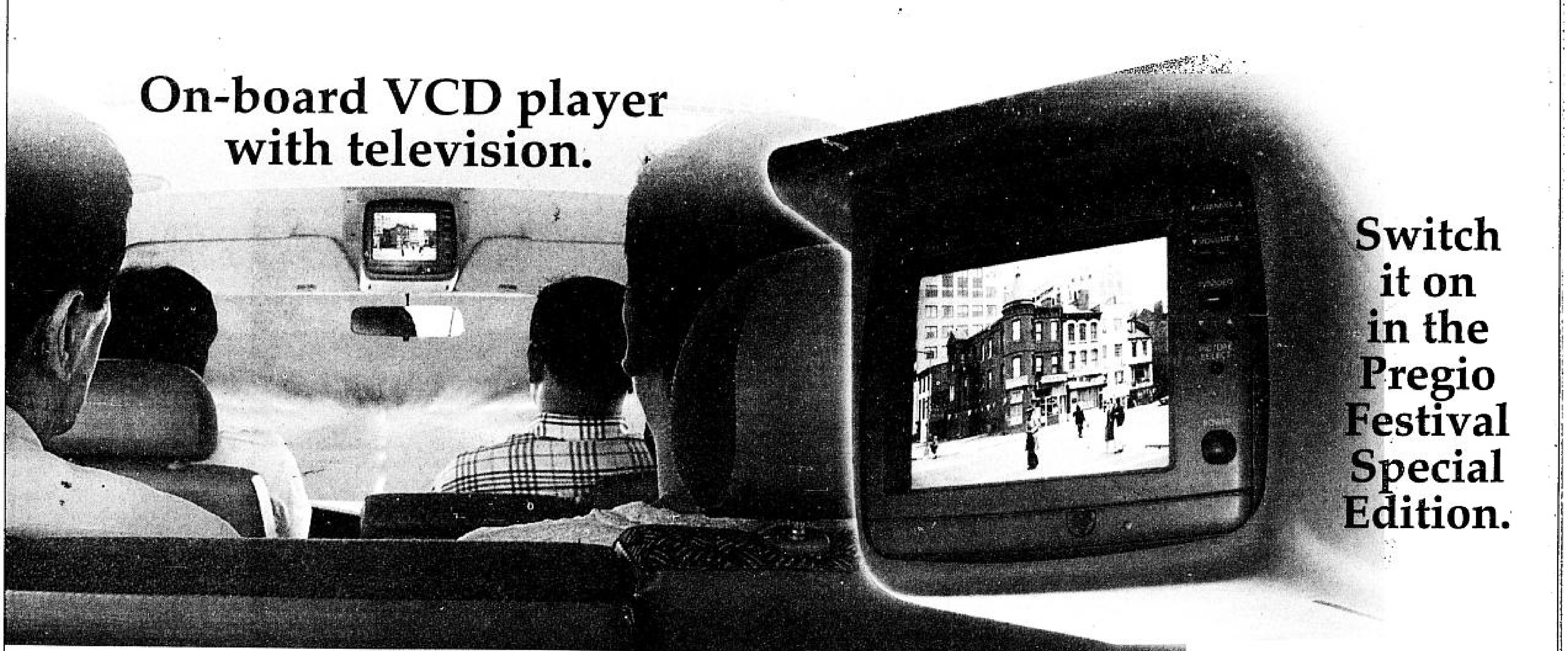
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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Western aid workers rescued from prison

ISLAMABAD—Eight foreign aid workers held captive for three months were freed from a squalid Afghan prison during an anti-Taliban uprising and airlifted to safety in neighboring Pakistan on Thursday by US military helicopters.

The aid workers—two Americans, two Australians and four Germans—landed at Chaklali air base on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, and all appeared to be in good health.

"It's like a miracle," said Georg Taubmann, one of the freed Germans, said upon his arrival at the German Embassy in Islamabad.

The aid workers for Shelter Now International, a German-based group, had been accused by the Taliban of preaching Christianity, a serious offense under the Taliban's harsh Islamic rule. But as the Taliban were fleeing the Afghan capital Kabul early Tuesday morning, the eight thought they were about to be freed.

But instead, the Taliban hastily put them in a vehicle and began driving them south as they retreated.

The Taliban "put us all into a steel container," Taubmann recounted. "It was terribly cold. They wanted to lock the container and leave us in there until the morning. We had no blankets. We were freezing the whole night through."

On Tuesday morning, the eight—six women and two men—were removed from the container, and placed in a fetid jail in Ghazni, about 80 km south of Kabul.

But as soon as they were placed in a cell, they heard bombing by American war planes. An hour later, an uprising by against the Taliban began, and shortly afterward, northern alliance troops came "and broke into the prison. They just opened the doors, and we actually afraid the Taliban were coming and taking us to Kandahar. We were really scared."

But to their relief, Taubmann and the others were treated as conquering heroes when they emerged on the streets of Ghazni.

"We walked into the city and the people came out of the houses and they hugged us and they greeted. They were all clapping," he said. "They didn't know there were foreigners in the prison."

"It was like a big celebration for all those people," Taubmann said, adding, "I think it was one of the biggest days of my life."

The northern alliance provided protection for the aid workers Tuesday and Wednesday.

Three US special forces helicopters picked up the aid workers in a field near Ghazni in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday, defense department officials said in Washington.

President George W. Bush hailed the dramatic turn of events culminating in the workers' safe arrival in Pakistan.

"I'm thankful they're safe, and I'm pleased with our military for conducting this operation," Bush said at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. Bush had rejected several attempts by the Taliban to use the aid workers as bargaining chips.

The Taliban had agreed to turn over the aid workers through the International Committee of the Red Cross, two senior administration officials said. The Red Cross was going to get them into the hands of US troops. But before the exchange could be accomplished, the anti-Taliban northern alliance overran Ghazni.

Bush said only that the International Red Cross and other "people on the ground facilitated" US troops' ability to rescue the aid workers.

The president said he had been worried that the Taliban might put the aid workers in a house that might be bombed accidentally, and said the US military had been working on plans for a secret rescue if needed. *AP*

ANTJE Bruemmer (right), wife of Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan Christoph Bruemmer, smiles as she meets with rescued German aid workers (left to right) Katrin Jelinek, Silke Durrkopf and Margrit Stebner upon their arrival at Germany's embassy in Islamabad Nov. 15.

REUTERS

Looting stops aid shipments

TERMEZ, Uzbekistan—Unicef and the World Food Program halted shipments of desperately needed aid to Afghanistan Wednesday amid reports of looting and lawlessness, an official said.

Hundreds of people were reportedly killed and tons of supplies looted in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif since the fundamentalist Taliban abandoned the city last week.

There have been reports of chaos in other parts of the country as Taliban forces retreated and opposition northern alliance fighters moved into the new territory.

The alliance seized eight trucks from a Unicef convoy in Mazar-e-Sharif this weekend. One driver and possibly two from an aid convoy in the area are missing and feared dead, said Alfred Ironside, Unicef spokesman in New York.

"Unicef and the WFP are both pausing their convoys on the border . . . to take a look at how safe it is in the country . . . given that there have been reports of lawlessness," Ironside said.

Ironside said that eight Unicef convoys have stopped on the border and the convoys are unlikely to move Thursday.

The delay calls into question whether the United Nations can deliver food to the country in the crucial weeks before the start of winter.

The United Nations sent its first barge load of food from the Uzbek port of Termez to the nearby Afghan port of Hairaton on Wednesday. *AP*

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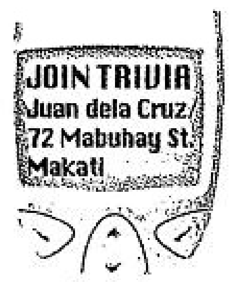

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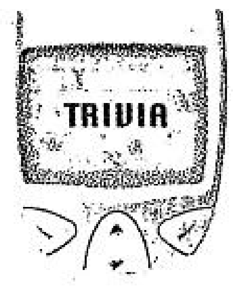

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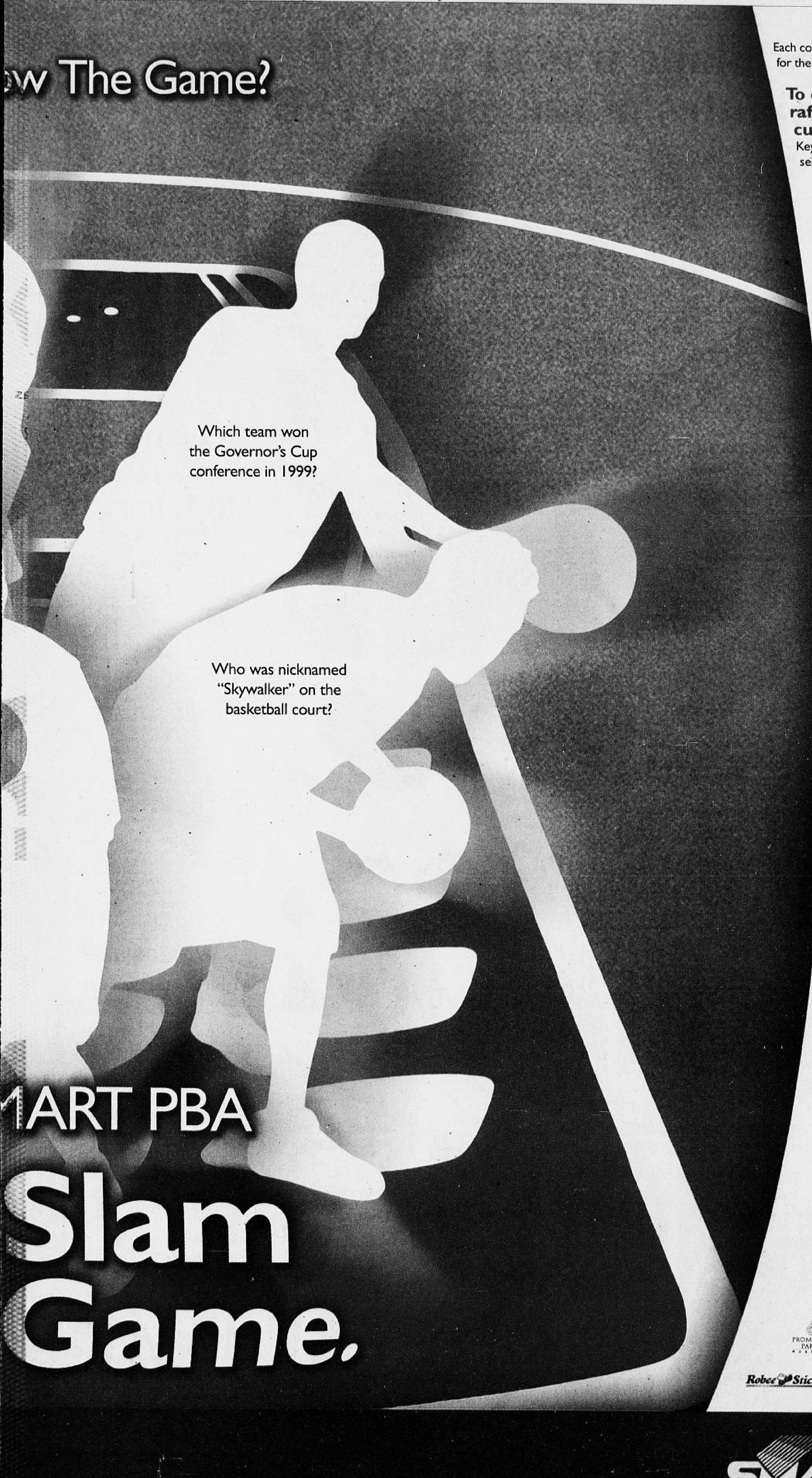
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Pilots knew plane was in trouble within 2 minutes of takeoff–NTSB

NEW YORK—Aviation authorities said an initial analysis of the cockpit voice recorder from the American Airlines crash here showed the pilots knew they were in trouble within two minutes of takeoff.

"There are several comments suggesting loss of control of the aircraft" two minutes and two seconds after Flight 587 began rolling down the runway at John F. Kennedy international airport Monday, National Transportation Safety Board official George Black told reporters.

Black said a second "quick look" at data from the voice recorder recovered from the crash detected "airframe rattling noises" a few seconds apart, and that at 114 seconds "the captain makes a comment about wake encounter"—referring to turbulence that may be caused by the wake of the last plane to take off from the same runway, a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747.

The NTSB also announced the discovery of the plane's flight data recorder, thought to contain crucial clues to the cause of the crash.

Experts investigating the crash are still unable to explain why the plane's tail section detached and whether "wake turbulence" was a factor in the disaster.

The company plans to inspect the tailfin and rudder of all the Airbus A300s in its fleet following Monday's crash, NTSB officials said Wednesday.

"American (Airlines) elected to do this this afternoon," NTSB chair Marion Blakey told a news conference, adding. "We'll be sharing the information with other (airlines that fly Airbuses)."

The tailfin came off in the crash, which claimed 265 lives including five on the ground and was the first of an Airbus on US soil.

Blakey said the Federal Aviation Administration's "chief scientist and technical adviser on advance composite structures" was en route to New York to help with the analysis of the downed plane's tail section.

Investigators found "no evidence of impact with an outside object" on the tailfin, Blakey said, as authorities indicated the crash appeared to be due to an accident.

Media, however, reported Thursday that across New York a widely held view was that the crash was no accident, and may have been due to sabotage.

The Washington Post quoted Gisela Martinez, of the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans—the nationality of some 90 percent of the fatalities of the crash—as saying: "No one in there thinks this was an accident."

"It's just too weird the way it all fell to pieces," the Post also quotes Christine Sabat, 30, a train commuter crossing Jamaica Bay, as saying. "Somebody who worked at the airport got to that plane."

A spokesperson of Airbus Industrie in Washington, Mary-Anne Greczyn, said the inspection of the airline's tailfins was "justified to help relieve any concern or answer any questions."

She said the vertical stabilizer and rudder of the A300 "never has any problem."

As to why the tailfin may have detached, Greczyn said: "You cannot explain it because the investigation is far too early. Right now everything is still a possibility."

She said American Airlines had made the inspection a priority, adding that Airbus Industrie was prepared to work together with the airline and US aviation authorities in the investigation.

The loss of Flight 587 left American Airlines with 34 Airbus A330-600s in its fleet.

Experts are also focusing on the possibility that turbulence from the wake of a Boeing 747 may have contributed to the crash, Blakey said.

"This would be consistent with a wake encounter . . . we are looking at it very closely," she said. *AFP*

APPROACHING RAMADAN REUTERS

The sun sets over a medieval mosque in Beirut's rebuilt commercial center Nov. 14, two days before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan is scheduled to begin. Muslims celebrate Ramadan, the month during which the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed, by fasting from dusk to dawn. It officially begins when the first moon of the new month is sighted.

Israel troops raid 2 towns, kill 1, hurt 14

GAZA—Israeli tanks and troops raided two Palestinian-ruled towns in the Gaza Strip and West Bank on Thursday, killing one Palestinian and wounding at least 14, witnesses and medical officials said.

Two Palestinians were also hurt in shooting between gunmen and Palestinian security forces in the West Bank city of Jenin, where at least 2,500 people protested against the arrest of a militant by President Yasser Arafat's security forces.

The violence, shortly before a visit to the Middle East by European Union leaders, dealt a new setback to hopes of a quick end to more than 13 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence in which almost 900 people have been killed.

The Army entered the Khan Younis refugee camp in southern Gaza overnight and destroyed buildings it said were used by gunmen to fire anti-tank grenades, mortar bombs and guns at military outposts and the Jewish settlement of Gush Katif.

A gunbattle erupted after troops and 12 armored vehicles including tanks and bulldozers moved some 700 meters into the camp, Palestinian witnesses said.

Hospital officials said one person was killed and 12 were wounded before the tanks and troops withdrew.

The witnesses said hundreds of people fled their homes as helicopters hovered overhead and tanks fired shells. Four buildings caught fire and calls to arms rang out from mosque loudspeakers.

Thirty homes were destroyed or damaged, the witnesses said.

The Army said Palestinians shot at Israeli troops and fired at least 10 mortar rounds at Gush Katif. A soldier was hurt by mortar fire on Wednesday but no Israelis were hurt during the later mortar bomb attacks.

Israeli tanks also rumbled into the Palestinian-ruled village of Shawawra near Bethlehem in the West Bank and troops arrested eight militants before withdrawing, the Army said. Witnesses said two Palestinians including an infant were hurt. *Reuters*

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Artificial heart man ill

TOOLS

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—The first recipient of a self-contained artificial heart, 59-year-old Robert Tools of the United States, is on a respirator after suffering a stroke, his doctors said yesterday. Tools had the stroke Sunday at Jewish Hospital here, where, on July 2, his ailing heart was replaced with an AbioCor artificial heart, Dr. Laman Gray said during a press conference. The stroke had been blamed on a blood clot, Gray said. "His condition is slightly better than someone with a heart because we don't have to worry about the heart," said Gray. The artificial heart "is specifically designed to minimize the risk of stroke—assuming that the patient is adequately anticoagulated," said Rob Dowling, one of the doctors who operated on Tools. "However, we cannot eliminate stroke as a risk for these patients," Dowling said. *AFP*

Child abuse in Japan up

TOKYO—Child abuse cases handled by authorities in Japan rose to a record high last year, according to a government study published Thursday. Officials said busier parents and a loosening of ties in once tightly knit communities were behind the increase, but added that a new law aimed at fighting child abuse had probably brought to light cases that went unreported in the past. According to the study by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, state-run counseling centers dealt with 17,725 cases of child abuse in fiscal 2000, up 53 percent from the previous fiscal year and more than 16 times the 1,101 cases reported in fiscal 1990. Eleven children died as a result of child abuse, up from 5 deaths the year before, the study said. *AP*

Crime drops in Beijing

BEIJING—Beijing officials said Thursday crime had fallen by five percent in China's capital since the government launched the draconian "Strike Hard" campaign against crime earlier this year. Reported crime in Beijing had dropped five percent between April, when the campaign was first launched, and September, said Liu Wei, a spokesperson for the city's police department. Officials used a tour of a drug rehabilitation center organized for foreign journalists to highlight their successes, saying the focus had been on smashing criminal gangs and arresting drug offenders. Drug use in Beijing, while developing later than coastal cities, is growing at a "very fast" rate, said Tao Jing, director of the police department's drug investigation division. *AFP*

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Preventing floods tied to irrigation project

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The completion of the San Roque multipurpose dam project in Pangasinan and Benguet by 2002 without its irrigation component in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan threatens to aggravate flooding in these provinces, irrigators' associations warned.

The warning was aired in two reports prepared by the National Irrigation Administration based on meetings with groups that are clamoring for the inclusion of the irrigation component under the 25th yen loan financing of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Without the regulating pond of the irrigation component and with the release of water from the San Roque Dam, the volume of water at the Agno River is expected to triple.

"Regular instant flooding along (the) Agno River basin area will be experienced," a report said, adding that this would cause erosion and damage crops and property.

Losses in agricultural crops, estimated at 433,000 metric tons every year, are also expected with the exclusion of the irrigation component in the loan package.

The NIA said the 100-hectare pond, which it noted was vital to the operation of the dam's power-generating units, was designed to divert the accumulated water to 70,800 hectares cultivated by 57,600 families in 31 towns and cities in the three provinces.

Under the project, which the National Economic and Development Authority approved in 1999, the NIA was to rehabilitate the lower Agno River irrigation system, Ambayoan-Dipalo river irrigation system and the Agno River irrigation system and to build new irrigation and drainage facilities covering 23,700 hectares.

The three decades-old systems now irrigate 33,787 hectares. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Floods force evacuation in Negros, Camiguin towns

FLASHFLOODS sent families fleeing their homes and rescue officials on their toes again in Negros Occidental and a town in Camiguin province.

In Mambajao, Camiguin, more than 100 families were evacuated as heavy rains flooded their streets and homes.

In Negros Occidental, flashfloods hit four cities and three towns just as the province and the rest of Western Visayas are still recovering from the devastation wrought by typhoon Nanang.

More than 500 families were evacuated in Negros Occidental yesterday after floods destroyed 295 houses and damaged 38 others in the towns of Cauayan, Escalante and Manapla and the cities of Sagay, Cadiz, Silay and Victorias cities.

Vicfran Defante, Provincial Disaster Management action officer, said the floods occurred after rivers overflowed due to heavy rains spawned by a cold front and high tide.

The floods forced a sugar central in Sagay City to close yesterday after the water level reached three feet deep.

Primitivo Rivero, resident manager of the Sagay Sugar Central, said they had to temporarily close the mills to prevent flood from destroying their machines.

pit. The mill was expected to resume operation today.

The Victorias Milling Co. and seven barangays in Victorias City were also flooded.

The flashflood destroyed an earth dam in Barangay Man-uling, Cauayan, destroying two houses, said town Mayor Jerry Tabujara. The floods affected about 400 families.

A landslide also hit Barangay Lina-on, spilling over into the highway in Cauayan, the mayor said.

In Escalante, students and teachers at the Binagyohan Elementary School were forced to move to higher grounds after water level started to rise about 11 a.m.

Escalante Mayor Santiago Barcelona said floodwaters in some areas were about 14-20 feet deep. A footbridge in Barangay Malasibog was washed out along with 10 houses, he added.

A state of calamity was declared in Cadiz City after floodwaters, about 10 to 16 feet deep, destroyed 10 houses.

Reports from the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council based in Iloilo City showed that Negros Occidental was the worst hit by Nanang.

The RDCC report said 30 fatalities were reported in Negros Occidental. Three were reported in Capiz and one each in Aklan, Antique and Iloilo. Four remain missing—three in Iloilo and one in Antique.

The RDCC report showed that the floods caused by Nanang left seven persons wounded—four in Negros Occidental, two in Capiz and one in Iloilo.

Tropical storm Nanang destroyed 1,047 houses, 757 in Negros Occidental, and damaged 5,785 more.

Nanang also destroyed P891 million worth of crops in the region.

Damage to infrastructure reached P731 million.

Gov. Pedro Romualdo of Camiguin said no major damage was reported but that a resident of Poblacion, Mambajao was declared missing.

He said Rey Galupo, in his 30s, was riding a motorcycle, with two others when the rampaging waters in Barangay Lumad-Baylao swept them. Galupo's companion managed to swim to safety but he was declared missing.

"The rain poured heavily around 9 p.m. and water immediately rose up to the waistline. We have to evacuate several families in the critical areas, including those from Barangay Balbagon," Romualdo told the INQUIRER by phone.

He said it was toward midnight when the water started to subside.

Romualdo said the flashflood did not affect other areas of the province, belying earlier reports that waist-deep water was preventing workers from digging up bodies buried at the height of typhoon Nanang.

"The flashflood was only in Mambajao and it immediately subsided," Romualdo said. *Carla Gomez and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Grace Albasin, Allan Nawal and Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Kidnap gang releases boy; no ransom paid

COTABATO CITY—Suspected members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang on Wednesday night released a seven-year-old boy who was abducted in Pikit town on Nov. 12.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said no ransom was paid for the freedom of Jimmy Yap Jr., son of traders Jimmy Sr. and Mary Frances Rico Yap.

The boy was left by his abductors in front of their house around 10:30 p.m.

"The father told me he did not pay any ransom, not even the so-called board and lodging fee," Piñol told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Pikit Mayor Farida Malingco told radio station dxMS here that a certain Boy Hashim, a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was the one who facilitated the release of the boy by exerting pressure on the kidnappers. *Edwin Fernandez, Rosa-May de Guzman and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Teachers needed in polls–Comelec

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Even before it could take off, Education Secretary Raul Roco's proposal to spare public schoolteachers from election duties starting in the 2004 elections got a lukewarm response from government and church officials here.

Victor Gaborne, Commission on Elections (Comelec) assistant director for Western Visayas, said that while they want teachers to focus more on their school responsibilities, they cannot delegate their election duties to just anyone, especially to mere college students.

"We acknowledge that teachers are being assigned too many jobs other than teaching. But we can depend on them. We cannot get any personnel within the government, who can be more reliable than our teachers," he told the Inquirer.

He said teachers do not have tenure to protect but they are accountable to the public. "We can only dispense with the services of our teachers if we can automate fully our electoral process," he said.

Fr. Meliton Oso, social action director of the Archdiocese of Jaro and coordinator of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), echoed Gaborne's concern.

"(The teachers) are the most available civil servants and most knowledgeable in election matters," he said.

He described as "flimsy" the reason of Secretary Roco that teachers could not perform their teaching jobs because of their election duties.

Roco earlier announced plans to push a proposal to free teachers from non-teaching duties such as manning election precincts, serving in the board of election inspectors, and doing survey work, among others.

He said he would suggest to Congress and to the Comelec to get the teachers out of the 2004 elections and to place college students in their stead.

"The most important is to depoliticize the teachers' ranks. Years of using the teachers for elections have made them vulnerable to threats, physical harm and corruption, for some," he had said.

If the teachers are no longer forced to serve in the elections, he added, the quality of education in the country might improve.

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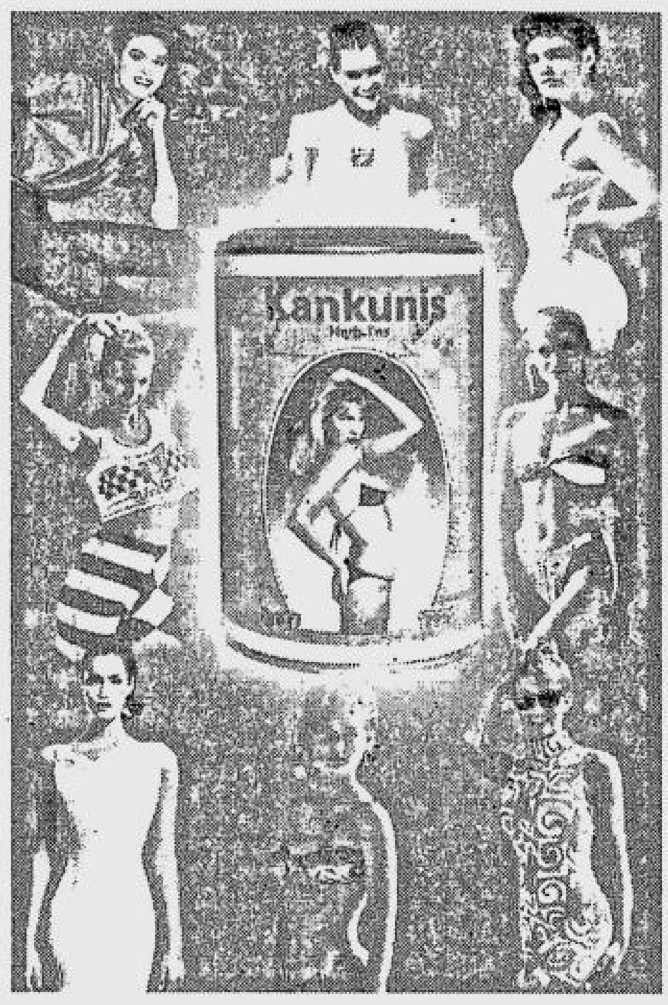

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Court summons 4 teenagers linked to killing of teacher

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Bacong-Valencia based in Valencia town on Wednesday sent subpoenas to the four teenagers who were tagged as suspects in last month's killing of public schoolteacher Naido Chirivias.

MCTC Judge Tirso Banquerigo ordered the four to appear before his court today for the preliminary investigation of the robbery with homicide case filed against them.

The teenage suspects, including the son of a municipal mayor, were charged in court after they were identified by witnesses in a police lineup as the ones who were last seen with Chirivias, 32, on the night that he was killed.

Chirivias, a teacher of the West City Elementary School in Dumaguete, was believed killed on the night of Oct. 1. His body was found the morning after in a farm lot in Barangay West Balabag, Valencia, 9 kilometers west of here.

He suffered a fatal wound in the chest and multiple superficial wounds in other parts of the body. His personal belongings worth P27,900 were missing. He was only clad in his shorts when found.

The four suspects are friends who belong to a dance troupe in Dumaguete. They were also frequently seen visiting Chirivias in his school.

Although the identities of the minors were withheld, Gov. George Arnaiz on Wednesday admitted to reporters that the mayor's son was his nephew.

He gave assurances that he would not attempt to influence the outcome of the investigation but would instead let the law take its own course.

The town mayor also gave assurances that his son would not flee but would instead face the charges. He added he also believed his son was innocent.

The mother of another suspect said she was surprised that her son was included in the charges because he was at home on the night Chirivias was killed.

SPO4 Reynaldo Iso, officer-in-charge of the Valencia police, had accused the four suspects of stabbing Chirivias and taking his wallet containing P5,000 in case, a wrist watch, a cell phone, a gold necklace and leather sandals.

Iso had written Judge Banquerigo, asking the court to immediately conduct a preliminary investigation to determine probable cause against the suspects so arrest warrants could be issued.

Iso told the court in his letter that there was a strong possibility that the suspects might flee from the province to avoid prosecution "due to the heinous nature of their offense."

Farmers urge higher palay prices

CABANATUAN CITY—Farmers in Nueva Ecija asked the National Food Authority to help them get out of poverty by increasing the buying price of palay, reducing rice imports and subsidizing farm inputs.

In a manifesto, members of the Aniban ng mga Magsasaka, Mangingisda, at Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMMMA) aired the demand for the increase of the government buying price of palay to P11 a kilo, from the current P9 a kilo.

The farmers, who staged a rally in front of the NFA offices here Tuesday, said the buying price offered by traders during harvest season is only P6-P7 a kilo.

They said this prevailing buying price was the same 20 years ago although prices of other commodities have doubled, or even tripled through the years.

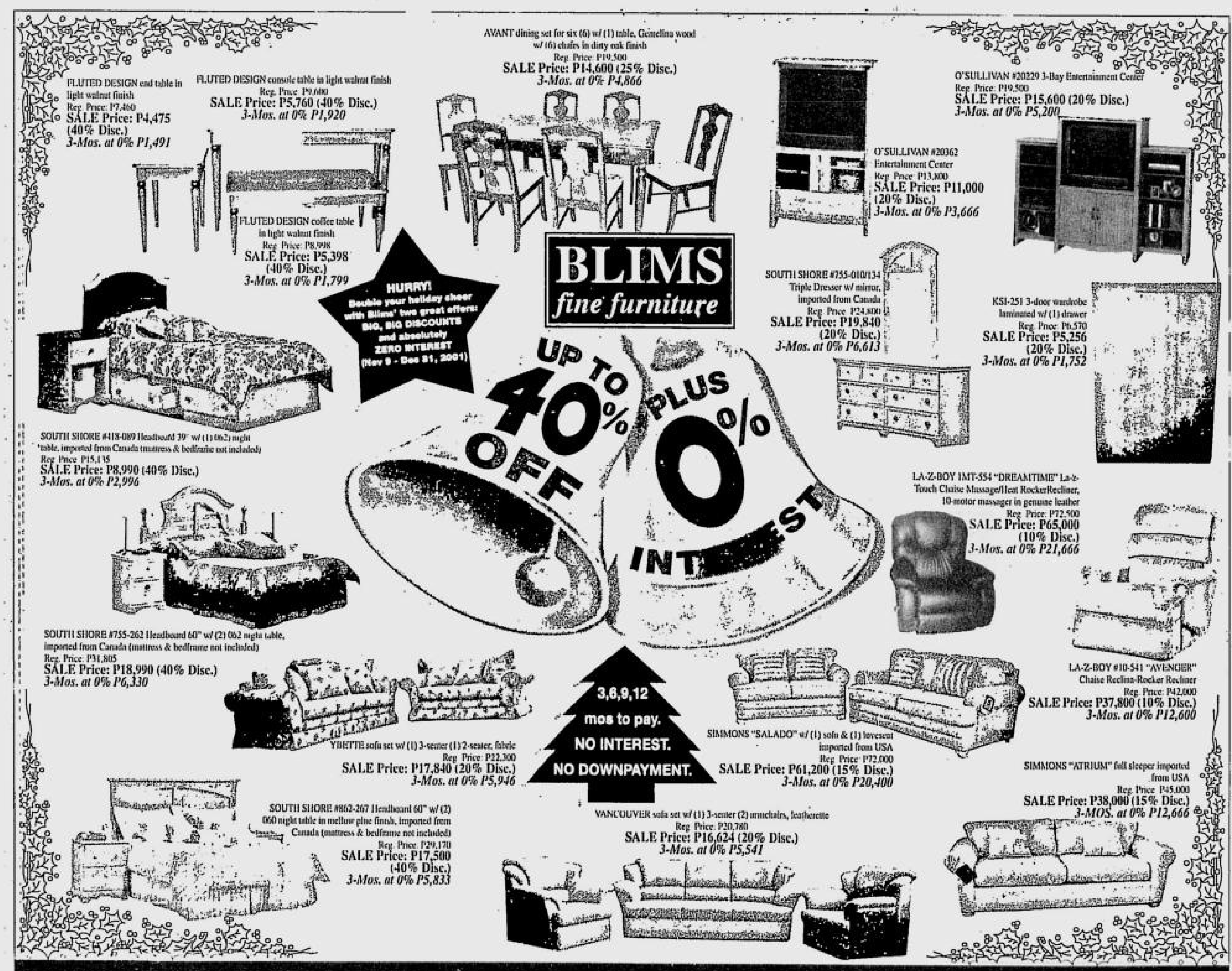
They asked for the granting of subsidy by the government to the needs of the farmers in their production efforts. These include fertilizers, pesticides, small machinery, farm irrigation and others.

They also asked the government to stop the "excessive importation" of rice and the dismantling of rice cartels operating in the country.

Marciano Alvarez, NFA provincial manager, met with the leaders of the group and discussed the demands that they aired here.

Alvarez and NFA Regional Director Cesar Mangune promised to bring the group's grievances to NFA officials.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern section of Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/11/16/01

ROUNDUP

Alert on barracuda

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has warned people against eating barracuda, a favorite fish here because of its fleshy and delicious meat. Jovita Ayson, BFAR regional director, said the fish contains *ciguatoxin*, which is produced by algae called *Gambierdiscus toxicus*. Ayson said the brain and muscles of the barracuda have a higher concentration of the toxin. Anyone who eats the fish may experience abdominal pain, numbness in the mouth, vomiting, headache and leg pain. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Robbery suspects held

BALAGTAS, Bulacan—Police arrested on Tuesday five suspected members of a robbery gang who allegedly stole some P2 million worth of rice from a warehouse in Barangay San Juan here last week. Charged with robbery were Renato Salvador and his companions Benny Rabac, Baldomero Cabiaan, Melchor Balanlayos and Joselito Divinagracia, all of Bocaue town. Police recovered 348 of 2,000 sacks of rice allegedly stolen from a warehouse also in Barangay San Juan.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Village chief shot dead

BATANGAS CITY—A barangay captain died after unidentified gunmen shot him while he was inside his car near his home in Barangay Banaba East here on Tuesday, police said. Victim Rogelio Blanco, 43, suffered multiple bullet wounds from an Armalite rifle and a .45 cal. pistol. Witnesses said after firing at the car, the gunmen went near the victim and shot him several times more. Police said they were studying personal grudge as a motive for the killing.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Councilman dies in ambush

LEGAZPI CITY—A barangay official was killed while his 10-year-old daughter suffered bullet wounds in an ambush Monday in Barangay Cabungan, Balatan, Camarines Sur. Police identified the victim as Romeo Roman, 33, barangay councilman, and his daughter Rose Ann. Investigators said the two were on their way home aboard a motorcycle when Roger Pedro and his brother Augusto, with two companions, waylaid them. Roman died from severe bleeding at the Bicol Medical Center. The suspects are still at large.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Neighbor hacks man, daughter

LEGAZPI CITY—A 35-year-old man and his daughter are in critical condition after suffering from hack wounds inflicted by a neighbor who attacked them outside their house in Barangay Datag, San Andres, Catanduanes on Monday. Police identified the victims as William Antonio, a construction worker, and his daughter Joy. Joy and her father were resting when their neighbor, Marino Sodela, 29, came with a bolo and hacked them. Police said Sodela and Antonio had a previous fight.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ma, daughter lost in flood

LEGAZPI CITY—A mother and her young daughter were reportedly carried away by floodwaters from a swollen river in Barangay Obo, San Miguel, Catanduanes. Police said victims Lorna Tesorero, 30, and her 10-year-old daughter Lorebeth were trying to cross the river around 1:30 p.m., Monday, to tend their farm in nearby Barangay Pagilao. Rescuers have not found the victims as of Wednesday.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

6 fall in shabu raid

LEGAZPI CITY—A daughter of a retired police superintendent and six others were arrested in a raid by the National Bureau of Investigation in Barangay Pigcale here. The suspects were, however, released from detention after the City Prosecutor's Office junked the NBI's request to conduct inquest proceedings on the suspects. Raymundo Sarga, NBI Legazpi deputy agent, identified one of the seven suspects as Geraldine Lopez.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

6 rapists hunted

LEGAZPI CITY—Police are hunting six men who raped a 16-year-old girl inside a chapel in Barangay Himanag, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur on Sunday. The victim was praying when the suspects cornered her at knifepoint. The victim identified the suspects as Honesto Ebuenga Jr., 25, and Emmanuel Bronzal, 26, all residents of the place. The victim told investigators that at least four companions served as lookouts while Ebuenga and Bronzal raped her.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ABENSON opens in Cabanatuan

Abenson's 40th branch is set to open at the NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan. Starting November 16, the Nueva Ecijaños will be up for a treat, starting off with a free raffle where they could win appliances and special gifts without having to purchase.

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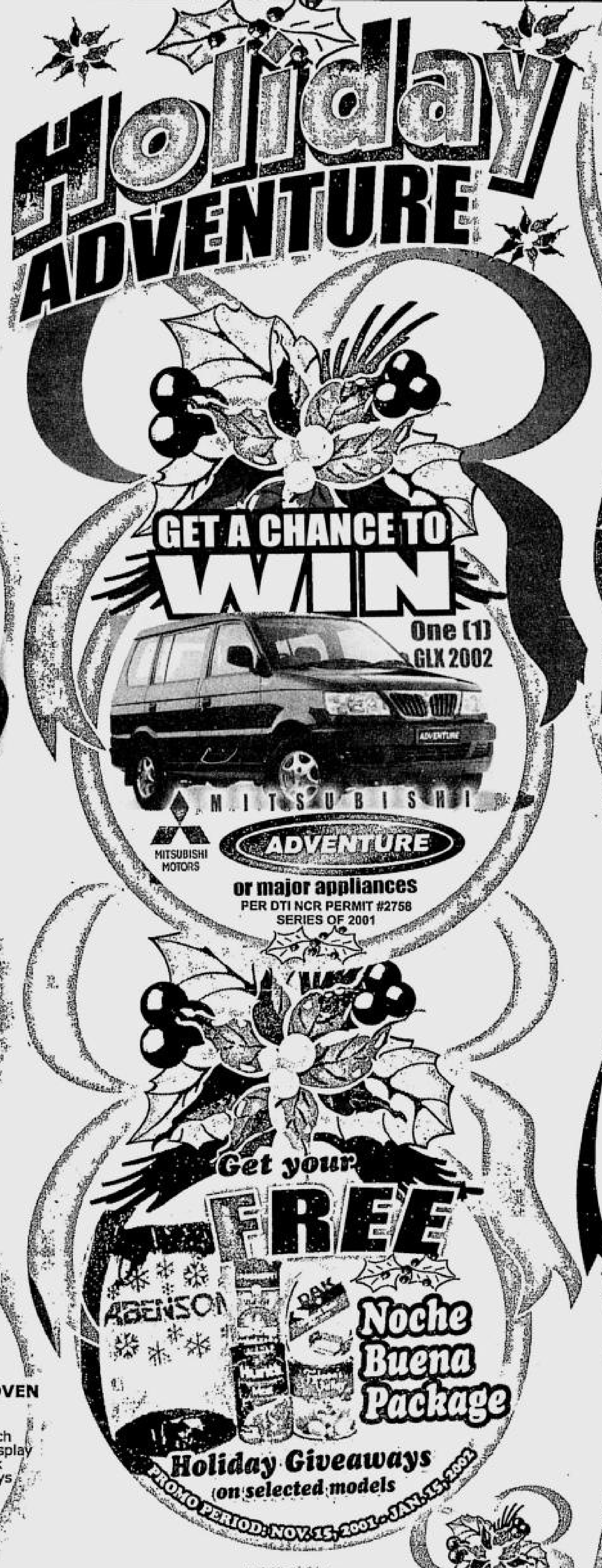

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High Court clears judge of bribe raps

THE SUPREME Court has acquitted RTC Judge Philbert Itturalde, who handled the Clark Development Corp. case against Mimosa, on an administrative case filed by disgruntled litigant Federico Calilung.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Itturalde said he was "mysteriously implicated" in the bribery case filed by couple Federico and Joselyn Calilung against another judge in 1998.

The statement said results of investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation, the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice released on April 21, 1998 cleared the judge of the charges.

But despite the result of the investigation, Justice Alfredo Benipayo recommended to the Supreme Court the filing of criminal charges against Itturalde.

Itturalde was suspended without pay and removed from handling the CDC-Mimosa case.

The high court, in its ruling, said it could not give credence to the case against Itturalde.

"Uncorroborated hearsay or rumor does not constitute substantial evidence," the SC ruling said.

"While this court may slightly bend backwards if only to avoid suspicion of partiality . . . to a brother in the profession, it must also step forward and take the lead to defend him against unsubstantiated tirades . . ." the court ruling added.

CLARK REFUELING

Protests greet US warplanes

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Six United States F-18 bomber jets bound for the counterterrorist "Operation Enduring Freedom" refueled at the airport here at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday.

The planes' arrival was greeted by protests from anti-war activists here.

More than 100 US Marines on board six C-130 cargo and refueling aircraft were also due here on Wednesday night for an overnight stay.

Wednesday's landings brought to 23 the number of American military aircraft that have used Clark since Nov. 4 for the US-led war on terrorism, according to Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing here.

Ballesteros, citing the security of US forces, declined to disclose the final destination of the planes, all of which came from air bases in Japan.

The jets were not armed with missiles and their personnel did not include ground troops.

Wednesday's refueling and transit came on the heels of the visit of Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, on Monday and the docking of the USS Germantown in Subic, Zambales on Saturday.

The USS Germantown took part in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the 1990s for the Gulf War.

At least 30 PAF troopers secured the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's Haribon Strip where the aircraft were parked.

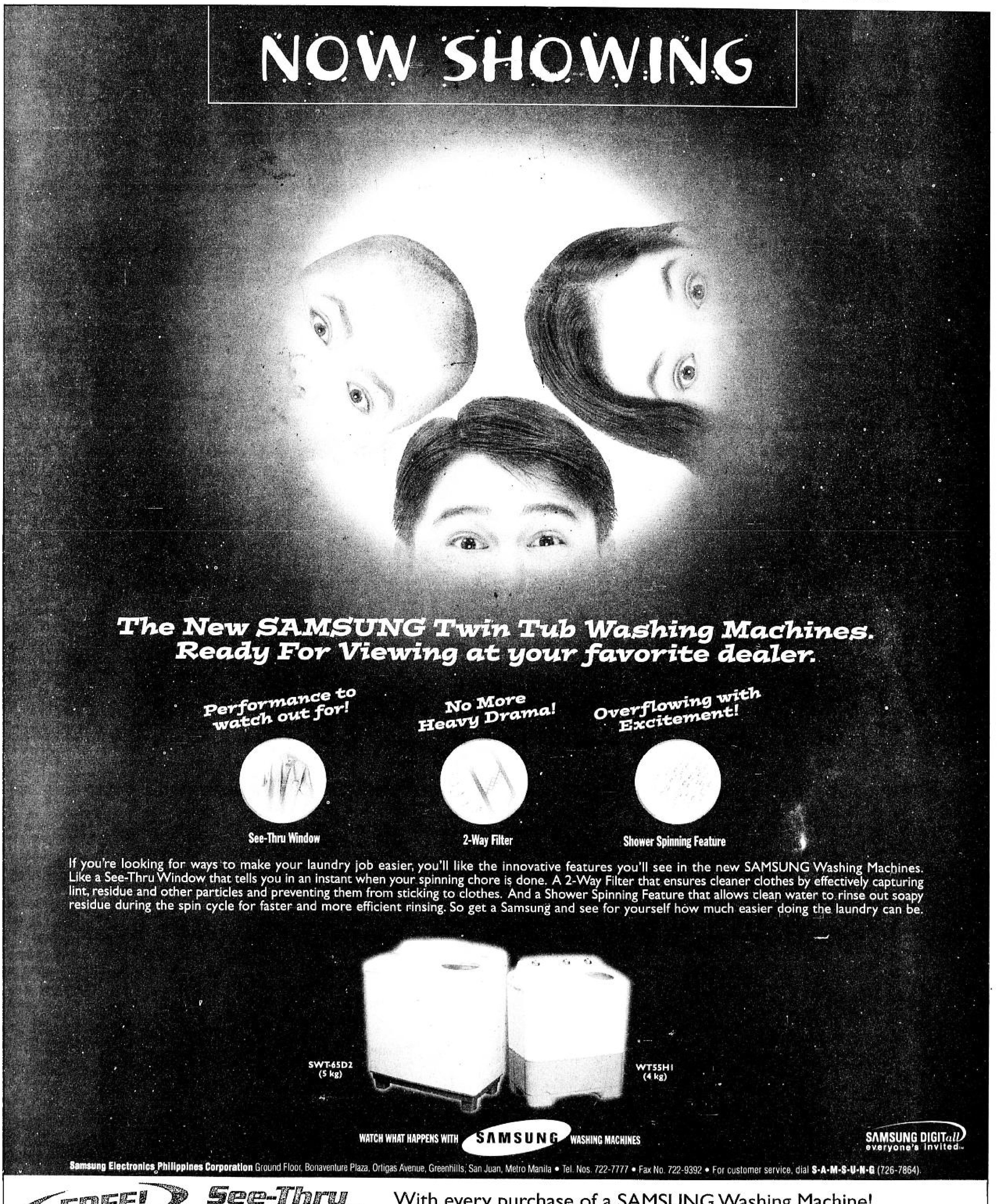
US personnel will be restricted in Clark's Holiday Inn where they are billeted, said Elmer Cato, acting executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement, a civilian oversight committee monitoring the activities of US visiting troops.

Security was tightened in and around Clark following attacks by suspected rebels on five transmission installations of three telecommunication companies in Central Luzon last weekend, it was learned.

At Clark's main gate, which is about 5 km from the 2,500-hectare airport, some 50 church leaders from the Promotion of Church People's Response led about 300 anti-war protesters in an inter-faith rally decrying the "retaliation and aggression of the US" on Afghanistan.

"We vehemently oppose the full and unqualified participation of the Arroyo administration (in) this US-led war. To participate in this war is to participate (in terrorist activities)," Methodist Pastor Alan Cabas, PCPR-Central Luzon secretary general, said in a statement to reporters.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Central Luzon, in another statement, said the PCPR's rally was the start of a series of anti-war demonstrations in the run-up to Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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Bin Laden: Death better than capture

(From page A1)

work tries to find a new hiding place outside of Afghanistan.

But Taliban spokesperson Mullah Abdullah said, "America can never arrest Osama bin Laden alive," the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported.

"Osama has decided that death is better than being handed over to the Americans. He prefers death," Abdullah said.

Abdullah dismissed rumors that Bin Laden had been arrested. "This morning at 9 a.m. I contacted my headquarters in Kandahar. There is no report about Osama bin Laden, and they strongly denied this rumor."

Pakistan has ordered an "Osama" alert on its border. "The government is aware of all possibilities and is taking all possibilities into account," a top Pakistani official, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

"Civil armed forces on the western borders in North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan borders have been put on red alert against any threat" of Bin Laden getting into Pakistan, the official said.

Special US forces are also operating in southern Afghanistan hunting Bin Laden and other al-Qaida targets.

Rumsfeld

In an interview released Thursday, Rumsfeld said Bin Laden might try to outmaneuver his US pursuers.

He told the New York Times: "My guess is what he'd probably do is take a helicopter down one of those valleys that we couldn't pick up and pop over to some part of the country where there is an airfield and have a plane waiting for him."

Rumsfeld added: "We're actively trying to make it hard for him to do anything. And we spend a lot of time looking for the leadership cells of al-Qaida and Taliban, and when we find them we try to destroy them."

The Taliban has said that Bin Laden is a "guest" and vowed never to hand him over to the United States, which started air strikes against Taliban targets on Oct. 7.

Pressure on the Taliban is mounting with opposition forces now attacking its stronghold city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. The city is the headquarters of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Omar and Bin Laden had residences in the city, which have been destroyed in US bombing raids.

Bin Laden, who is said to live constantly on the move to avoid capture and reportedly often shuttles from cave to cave, has often said he is ready to die for his radical anti-US cause.

According to Hamid Mir, a Pakistani newspaper editor who interviewed Bin Laden last week, the accused terrorist leader feels certain the Americans will kill him sooner or later.

"He told me, 'I am ready to die.' He said, 'I know that they can bomb this place also. They are not aware that I am present here. But they are dropping bombs blindly everywhere. So I may get killed even with you.'"

"My cause will continue after my death," Mir quoted Bin Laden as saying. "They think they will solve this problem by killing me. It's not easy to solve this problem. This war has been spread all over the world."

Kandahar

Fighting raged Thursday around the Taliban militia's spiritual fortress in Kandahar, according to an anti-Taliban leader who is trying to negotiate the Islamic militia's surrender.

US warplanes heavily bombed the city, killing eight people and causing widespread damage, according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

Mujaheedin and tribal fighters have taken Kandahar's main airport from the Islamic militia which has been forced to retreat to its bastion over the past week, according to Hamid Karzai, a pro-royalist former deputy foreign minister.

"Tribal people have already approached the outskirts of Kandahar. There is a state of disorder inside the city," Karzai told AFP.

Karzai has been in Afghanistan for more than a month trying to foment a rebellion against the Taliban regime, which has collapsed over the past week and has been forced back into a corner of southern Afghanistan.

US warplanes have focused their bombing on Kandahar since the air strikes began on Oct. 7 in a bid to force the Taliban leadership to hand over Bin Laden.

The Pakistan-based AIP said American bombers pounded Kandahar several times Thursday, as well as the locality of Merwais Mena to the west. It said 22 people were injured and taken to hospital.

A Taliban spokesperson said, "the bombardment was very intense and caused huge loss to life and property," according to AIP.

Local groups fighting to take Kandahar are not directly linked to the Northern Alliance which has battled the Taliban out of Kabul and the north of the country.

Surrender talks

Karzai said he was in contact with Taliban commanders in the city.

"I am trying to negotiate with the Taliban in order to convince them that what they are doing is not benefiting Afghans or Afghanistan," said Karzai, speaking from Uruzgan province which is adjacent to Kandahar.

Karzai said local warlords had briefly seized the Uruzgan provincial capital, Tirin Kot, on Wednesday but later retreated after the Taliban launched a fierce counterattack.

"We didn't want any bloodshed so the Taliban took back control," Karzai said.

But the loss of Kandahar would signal the end of the Taliban as a major force for now, probably condemning it to fight a guerrilla war from the mountains.

A Northern Alliance envoy in Tajikistan claimed Wednesday that the Taliban had abandoned Kandahar. But the Islamic militia denied the claim, saying an attack had been successfully repelled.

Omar and his fighters emerged in 1994 and took over Kandahar as launching pad for the militia's capture in 1996 of Kabul and the imposition of its hardline Islamic rule.

Although Kabul remains the capital, Kandahar has been the source of power throughout the Taliban's peak years. The movement eventually spread its rule over 90 percent of Afghanistan before its collapse a week ago.

Taliban fighters, including many Pakistani and Arab loyalists, were also making a last stand in the besieged northern city of Kunduz, where thousands of Northern Alliance soldiers were reported preparing for an assault.

A US B-52 bomber pounded Taliban positions around Kunduz as the Taliban and Northern Alliance exchanged rocket and mortar fire.

Routed in northern Afghanistan, and chased out of Kabul, the Taliban may now only have control of three or four of the war-stricken country's 31 provinces around Kandahar, according to some diplomats monitoring the conflict.

With international concerns growing over how the new Afghanistan is to be governed, the Northern Alliance has taken control of the interim administration in Kabul.

It pressed plans to form an interim government, promising elections in two years, while the international community scrambled to put together a broad-based administration acceptable to all parties.

The alliance—a disparate grouping of ethnic Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras and other minorities—has invited all Afghan groups to start negotiations on Afghanistan's future.

AFP

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5. Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption of prizes is until January 31, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.
11. All employees of BPI UNIBANK, its subsidiaries and its advertising agency are disqualified from joining the promo.
12. In the event of lost claim certificate, rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
13. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
14. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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7 hostages released, but not 2 Americans

(From page A1)

Nov. 1, she had converted to Islam.

Her new name is Mariam, she said.

Rosadeno, 21, replied "no comment" every time questions were directed at her. But she wept when she was asked about the American Guillermo Sobero, her boyfriend, who was abducted along with her.

Sobero, a resident of Corona, California, was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in June. US authorities have confirmed that bones found in Basilan last month were his.

Cimatu said the five other hostages were recovered yesterday afternoon in Lower Port Holland in Maluso, Basilan.

He named them as Sheila Tabunyag, a nurse taken on June 2 along with several others from the Don Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan; Joel Abellon, Mohammad Abdulpatta and Marlon Dagayanon, workers of the Golden Harvest Plantation in Lantawan, Basilan, who were taken on June 11; and Fernando Romeo, a carpenter taken from Barangay Atong-atong in Lantawan on Oct. 12.

"They are with us now, in our custody," Capt. CJ Paolo Perez of the military's intelligence office told the INQUIRER.

But like Cimatu, Perez declined to give details apart from saying that the hostages were recovered because of the "continuing pursuit operations" of the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion.

Tabunyag, 25, described her ordeal as "a nightmare" in a brief interview with The Associated Press aboard a helicopter en route from Basilan to Zamboanga.

"We are OK now," she said, clutching her husband's hand and gripping her 5-year-old son tightly with the other arm.

Apart from the Burnhams, the Abu Sayyaf is still holding Deborah Yap, also a nurse from Lamitan.

Montealegre said Yap had been separated from their group, and that Commander Isnilon Hapilon was holding her.

Letter

Montealegre said both of the Burnhams were sick and had requested her to send a letter to their native Wichita in Kansas.

"They want me to tell what we really know of their condition—that they are not OK, that they are not fine," she said.

Montealegre said life in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf was not easy.

"Since the start life had been hard—we were always hungry, and every time there was a clash with the military it was very, very difficult for us," she said.

Dodging bullets, and not running out of food, was her worst nightmare.

"We got sick and tired of running," she said. "We learned everything there—how to run, crawl, drop to the ground, to avoid the bullets going past our heads."

But sometimes there would be a feast, Montealegre said, likening their days in captivity to the ebb and flow of the tides.

"There was plenty of food during high tide—beef, chicken or goat," she recalled. "But during low tide, all we had were bananas, vegetables, and cassava."

Agence France Presse quoted her as saying that the last time the hostages had rice was "one month ago."

As to the possibility of her reverting to Christianity, Montealegre simply said: "Only time will tell."

Montealegre said she and the other hostages were not forced to convert to Islam: "We were just enlightened, because every day they prayed and prayed."

Montealegre also confirmed a message earlier relayed by the Abu Sayyaf to the government through Reina Malonzo.

"They wanted some sort of a ceasefire," she said.

But Cimatu said the military would continue its operations "until we get all of (the hostages)."

Cimatu also said the women had "Stockholm syndrome" but that "this will disappear in the days to come."

He was referring to a psychological condition that makes a hostage identify with his or her abductor after a long period of captivity.

'Very close'

AP quoted Cimatu as saying that his men were "very close" to rescuing the remaining hostages.

"The rescue operations are a little bit easier now," he said.

Some 7,000 troops have been pursuing the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The bandit group gained international notoriety last year when it seized 21 people from the Malaysian resort island of Sipadan and made millions of dollars in ransoms for their release.

Many of the other hostages it seized in May and June were rescued, released, killed or escaped.

The US government has said that the Abu Sayyaf was connected to the international terrorist network al-Qaida, and has promised equipment and training to help the Philippine military fight the group. *With reports from AP, AFP*

COMSOUTHCOM
CIMATU

SOUTHCOM chief, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, leads the way for Angie Montealegre and Maria Fe Rosadeno to the press briefing.

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Cory warns: Beware of politicized military

(From page A1)

calated when the chair of the Young Officers Union, which had been suspected of plotting a coup, was detained for more than 10 hours late last month.

Shortly thereafter, it did not help to quell the coup rumors when the President suddenly announced that Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane would succeed the chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Leandro Mendoza.

A few days later, she backtracked, saying that she may extend Mendoza's tenure after all.

Edsa Revolt goodwill

Aquino, who was an inspiration of and a key player in the uniquely Filipino phenomenon of People Power, suggested that President Macapagal build upon the goodwill of the two Edsa revolutions to create a corps of "truly professional soldiers, dedicated only to the welfare of the people and the Constitution."

In her video address before the Philippine Business Conference, Aquino noted that the series of unsuccessful putsches against her government were "things that were waiting to happen" because of the politicization of the Armed Forces under more than a dozen years of martial law.

Down the drain

"(Our economic policies) attracted investments that resulted in the gross national product that peaked at 7.2 percent in 1988. All these went down the drain following 1989, when the most destructive coup attempt against our government was launched," Aquino said.

"(To get the soldiers to rally behind the administration), we had to enforce a carefully calibrated combination of diplomacy and force," Aquino said.

She said this was necessary to save the economy that had been sapped of almost all of investment confidence.

"We were steadfast in resisting the expediency of totalitarian methods. We also organized and empowered the participation of the nongovernment organizations that caused the soaring surge of social responsibility," she said.

She attributed the high 7.2 percent GNP growth in 1988 to the economic policies, which were in force at that time.

Aquino said that the economic policies during the first years of her administration actually caused renewed investor confidence in the Philippines after years of martial law and the Marcos dictatorship.

"After the man-made calamities during my administration, my administration was also rocked by natural calamities. These included the great Northern Luzon earthquake of 1990 and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991," Aquino said.

These natural calamities, Aquino said, also caused adverse effects on the national economy.

"While these calamities caused setbacks in the Philippine economy, they also resurfaced the capacity of the Filipino to rise above adversity," she added.

High-tech appearance

Aquino and her successor, former President Fidel Ramos, each addressed the conference of business leaders, organized by the Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry. They spoke before the plenary session, dedicated to drawing lessons from the past from the perspectives of former national leaders.

Both Aquino and Ramos were not physically present at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza. Aquino addressed the conference through a video while Ramos spoke to the country's business leaders through teleconferencing.

Ramos is in Paris as head of the Philippine mission to improve trade relations with France.

Make use of advantages

Ramos, for his part, said that despite having been set back two years by the short-lived administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada, the Philippines can still make use of economic advantages made from 1992 to 1998 by his administration.

"We have to work hard to actualize the potential resources, revenues, profits and benefits," Ramos said from the posh accommodations of the Andersen Consultancy in Paris.

"We have the advantages, so let's make use of them. We have to look more steady," he told business leaders at the conference in Manila.

Among the advantages that businessmen could take advantage of is the fact that the country had been freed from the monitoring of the International Monetary Fund under his administration, Ramos said.

"We should go back to the fundamentals. New laws should have to be passed because of outside developments. These developments include the economic crisis from 1997 to 1999, the effects of which we are still feeling, and the problem of international terrorism," Ramos said.

Workers 'reorganized' out of jobs

(From page A1)

The President cited the need to rationalize the credit guarantee system in the country as the reason for the merger. While GFSME only guarantees loans and SBGFC guarantees and extends credit, both cater to the small- and medium-scale enterprises.

'Illogical'

SBGFC employees, who asked not to be named, wondered why they had to be terminated and then rehired at great cost to the government. The separation pay for terminated employees of both corporations runs in the millions.

"Why do they have to spend this much is illogical. They could have just reorganized us and they would not have spent a single cent. We could have just absorbed employees from the GFSME. We thought they wanted to cut costs," said an irate employee.

Benel Lagua, president-COO of the surviving entity, the new SBGFC, and former managing director of GFSME, however, justified the "illogical" termination and rehiring of employees.

"When Trade Secretary Mar (Roxas) talked to both units, he said he wanted a merger of equals. In other words he wanted to put together the best and the brightest from the two agencies in terms of features, capabilities and personnel," he said.

Besides, Lagua added, the new SBGFC would be able to recoup the separation costs within a year or two of its operations.

The employees were notified only in September that they would be terminated effective Oct. 31 due to the reorganization of the SBGFC and its merger with the GFSME. The termination was later moved to Nov. 15.

Civil service eligibles

Other SBGFC employees also charged that their termination was illegal, saying that they have security of tenure, eligibility and permanent appointment from the Civil Service Commission.

"What is their valid grounds for our termination?" asked one employee.

Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, chair-CEO of the new SBGFC, maintained that none of the employees' rights was violated.

"If the corporation were not in a state of reorganization then it's true you can't just terminate a permanent employee without filing formal charges," she said.

"The charter gives power to the board to reorganize the corporation as necessary. And so the board of directors of SBGFC declared that SBGFC will be reorganized to allow for the merger, which is covered by the EO."

The employees also questioned why they were terminated before a new table of organization (TO) was approved, saying this was a clear violation of RA 6656, a law protecting the security of tenure of civil service officers and employees in any reorganization.

"You can't be terminated without approved staffing pattern and plantilla position by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). That's provided for in RA 6656. Until now, there's no table of organization," said an employee.

But Alonzo, who served as Pag-Ibig president from 1989 to 1999, saw nothing wrong even as she admitted last week that the table of organization had yet to be approved by the DBM.

"It doesn't have to be sequential. Things can't happen at the same time. A reorganization like this should be completed as fast as possible so the period of instability is as short as possible," she said.

The employees also accused the top SBGFC officials of tricking them into believing that 300 new positions would be opened under the reorganized SBGFC.

"Obviously, that's not being followed now," one of them said.

Alonzo admitted that a plantilla for 298 people was prepared but said that the positions were not being filled up now.

"We feel that with the volume of business that we have, we don't need that many people. The 298 is a provision for the future when we're bigger. Ninety employees would be sufficient," she said, noting that some tasks like accounting would be computerized.

Generous package

"The fact that everyone was given a generous compensation package is indicative that rehiring is not secured for everyone. Because if everyone was rehired, there would be no compensation package."

Under the implementing rules and regulations of EO 28, each of the terminated employees is entitled to a separation pay equivalent to two months salary for every year of service. They expect to receive this 30 days after their termination.

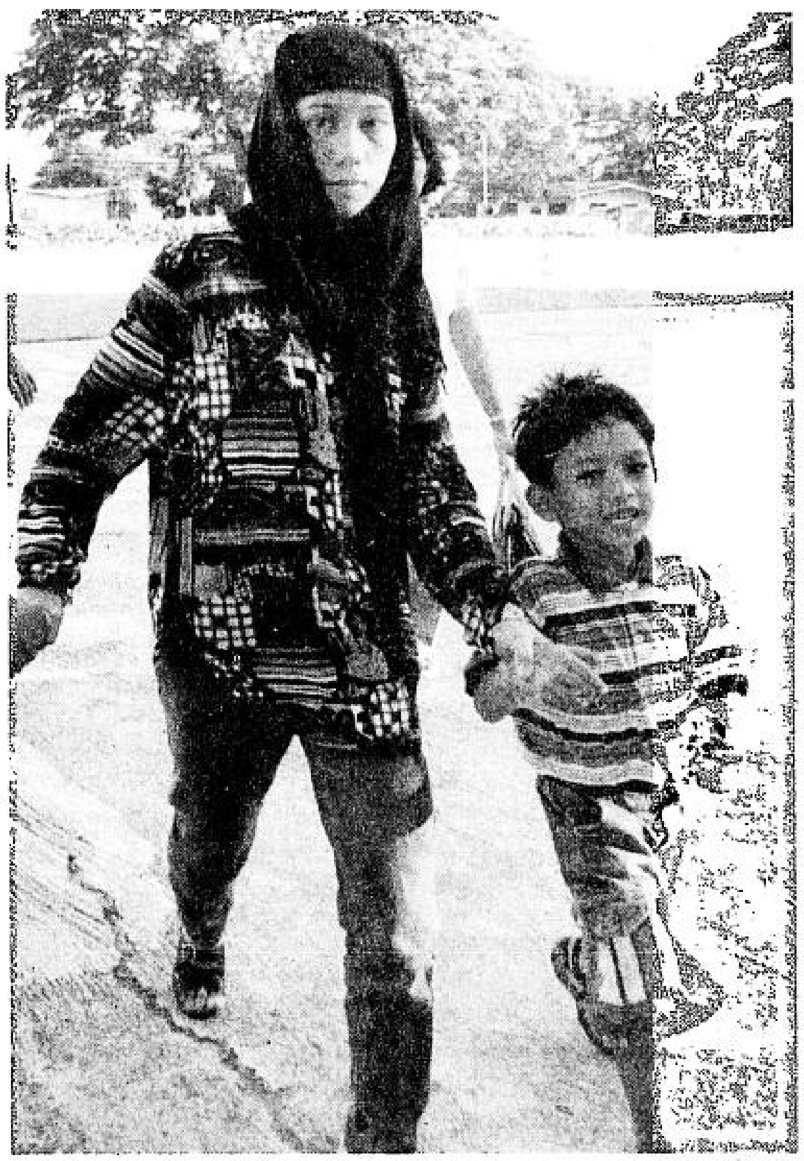
Both Lagua and Alonzo insisted that the termination and rehiring of the employees were in accordance with civil service rules.

"We've been in constant communication with the Civil Service Commission to make sure that we are not doing anything that is violative of rules and regulations because we realize we are a government institution and we have to do everything according to prescribed rules and regulations," Alonzo said.

Apart from the separation pay, the SBGFC board has decided to sponsor a livelihood seminar for those who could not be rehired at the Technology Livelihood Resource Corp. (TLRC).

"The board approved a budget that will allow employees who will not be rehired to attend seminars at TLRC," Alonzo said.

Out of 131 employees from both units, only 103 have opted to reapply. *(To be concluded tomorrow.)*



MAMA's back and it shows on the face of the son of former hostage Sheila Tabunyag on arrival at the Southern Command in Zamboanga City. AP

Vets on GMA mind when she meets Bush

(From page A1)

Wednesday night for San Francisco, the first leg of her nine-day working visit.

During her talks with Bush, Ms Macapagal is expected to make a pitch for the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act.

She said the bill, re-filed by US Rep. Benjamin Gilman (Republican, New York), was "long overdue."

The President is also expected to personally lobby for the enactment of the bill when she meets with US congressional leaders.

Ms Macapagal is also scheduled to meet with US Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi in Washington.

She said she would impress upon Principi that Filipino war veterans who served on the US side during the war deserved the same benefits enjoyed by their American counterparts.

Speaking before the Filipino-American community in San Francisco yesterday, Ms Macapagal said she also fully supported the bills on absentee voting and dual citizenship pending before the Philippine Congress.

She said the absentee voting bill was one of the 16 priority measures she endorsed during the opening of the 12th Congress in July.

"Imagine, the overseas Filipino remittances amount to $6 billion to $8 billion a year. This huge amount of remittances certainly entitles them to have a say in who should be running the government," she told the audience at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco.

She said the dual citizenship bill was now being debated at the House of Representatives.

Filipino-Americans are "entitled to anything that a (Filipino) citizen is entitled to because their heart is still Filipino," she said.

The President arrived in San Francisco on Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) and went straight to the so-called "Town Hall Meeting" with Filipino-Americans.

She left for New York after the meeting.

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Supreme Court
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Gentlemen:

Quoted hereunder, for your information, is a resolution of the Court En Banc dated

13 November 2001

"Bar Matter No. 850. — Re: Proposed Rules on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education. — The Court Resolved to APPROVE the Implementing Regulations on the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, submitted by the MCLE Committee, and reviewed and passed upon by the Supreme Court Committee on Legal Education, to wit:

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

Section 1: Definitions

a. ***Rules*** – Provisions of Supreme Court Bar Matter 850 on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE).
b. ***Committee*** – The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee constituted in Rule 15 of Bar Matter 850.
c. ***Implementing Regulations*** – These regulations adopted by the Committee.
d. ***Provider*** – Any person or group accredited by the Committee to provide continuing legal education activities in accordance with the standards set in Rules 8 and 9.
e. ***Education Activity*** – A continuing legal education activity offered by an accredited provider and approved by the Committee for the relevant compliance period.
f. ***In-house Education Activity*** – An education activity offered by a law firm or legal department of a corporation or government agency comprised of at least 10 lawyers approved by the Committee to provide MCLE for the lawyers of said law firm or legal department of a corporation or government agency.
g. ***Special Education Activity*** – An education activity or program which, because of its significant value to the practice of members who have sought its approval, has been approved by the Committee for such members under Section 2(g), Rule 2.
h. ***Credit Units*** – The measure of compliance with the MCLE requirement under the Rules based on the category of the lawyer's participation in the MCLE activity.
i. ***Credit Hours*** – Actual time spent in an education activity (actual instruction, speaking time or participation) computed in hours to the nearest one quarter hour (15 minutes) reported in decimals.

Section 2: Minimum Education Requirement

Subject to the exemptions listed in Sections 1 and 2, Rule 7 of the Rules, every member of the IBP must complete at least thirty-six (36) credit units of mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) every three (3) years during the compliance period as provided in Rule 2 and these Implementing Regulations.

Section 3: Compliance Period

The initial compliance period shall be from April 15, 2001 up to April 14, 2004. All succeeding compliance periods shall begin the day after the end of the preceding compliance period. The initial compliance period for members newly admitted or readmitted to the IBP shall begin on the first day of the month of admission or readmission and shall end on the same day as that of all other members.

Section 4: Computation of Credit Units

Credit units will be given for time spent in an approved education activity based on the category of the lawyer's participation therein, as provided in Section 1, Rule 4 of the Rules.

a. **General Standard of Computation**
   1. Credit units will be given only for time spent in legal education activities which have been previously approved by the Committee and conducted by an accredited provider.
   2. Credit units will be given in accordance with Section 1 of Rule 4.
   3. Every approved education activity shall be conducted for at least one hour. However, if it should exceed one hour, one-half credit unit shall be given for every half hour beyond the initial hour.

b. **In-house Education Activity**

An in-house education activity must be approved by the Committee before a lawyer may earn any credit unit for participation therein.

Section 5: Exemptions

The following are exempted from the MCLE requirement:

a. **The *Executive***
   1. The President, Vice-President of the Philippines, and the Secretaries and Undersecretaries of the Executive Departments of the Philippine Government;
   2. The Chief State Counsel, Chief State Prosecutor, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Justice;
   3. The Solicitor General and the Assistant Solicitors General;
   4. The Government Corporate Counsel, Deputy and Assistant Government Corporate Counsel;
   5. Heads of government agencies exercising quasi-judicial functions;

b. **The *Legislative***

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives;

c. **The *Judiciary***

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, incumbent and retired members of the Judiciary, incumbent members of the Judicial and Bar Council, and incumbent court lawyers covered by the Philippine Judicial Academy program of continuing judicial education;

d. ***The Constitutional Bodies***
   1. The Chairmen and Members of the Constitutional Commissions;
   2. The Ombudsman, the Overall Deputy Ombudsman, the Deputy Ombudsmen and the Special Prosecutor of the Office of the Ombudsman.

e. ***Law Schools/Academe***
   1. Incumbent deans, bar reviewers and professors of law who have had teaching experience for at least ten (10) years in accredited law schools;
   2. The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and members of the Corps of Professors and Professorial Lecturers of the Philippine Judicial Academy;

f. ***Local Government***

Governors and mayors;

g. ***Non-Practicing Lawyers***
   1. Lawyers who are not in practice, whether private or public; and
   2. Those who have retired from law practice with the approval of the IBP Board of Governors.

Section 6: Other Exemptions or Modifications

For good cause (such as physical disability, illness, post-graduate study abroad, proven expertise in law and similar ground) and subject to approval by the Committee, a member may file a verified request for exemption from compliance, or modification of any of the MCLE requirements, including extension of time for compliance.

Section 7: Approval of Continuing Legal Education Activity, Program, or Course

A continuing legal education activity approved for credit shall meet the following standards:

a) The activity shall have significant current intellectual or practical content, the primary objective of which is to improve the participant's professional competence and ethical behavior.
b) The activity shall constitute an organized program of learning related to legal subjects and the legal profession, including cross profession activities (e.g., accounting-tax or medical-legal) that enhance legal skills or the ability to practice law, as well as subjects in legal writing and oral advocacy.
c) The activity shall be conducted by a provider with adequate professional experience.
d) Where the activity is more than one (1) hour in length, substantive written materials must be distributed to all participants. Such materials must be distributed at or before the time the activity is offered.
e) In-house education activities must be scheduled at a time and location so as to be free from interruption like telephone calls and other distractions.
f) Information concerning the activity, including the brochure describing it, the qualifications of the speakers, the method or manner of presentation of the materials, and, if necessary, a set of the materials shall be submitted to the Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the presentation of the activity.
g) The participants shall be provided with the prescribed Education Activity Evaluation Forms to be completed and submitted by them to the provider who in turn shall transmit a copy thereof to the Committee at the end of the legal education activity. The provider shall keep a set of the said forms for a period of not less than one (1) year after the termination of the continuing legal education activity.
h) The provider shall submit to the Committee a report on the conduct of its continuing legal education activity together with the accomplished MCLE attendance cards of the attendees within thirty (30) days after the end of the legal education activity.

Section 8: Approval of Special Education Activity

a) An accredited provider shall apply for approval of a special education activity on a form to be provided by the MCLE Committee. It shall contain a detailed description of the provider, the course, the course materials, the lectures and the activity and shall be submitted at least ninety (90) days prior to the presentation of the activity.
b) The provider may not publish that a special education activity has been approved except with prior written approval of the Committee.
c) The special education activity must meet the standards set forth in Section 2, Rule 8 and these Implementing Regulations.

Section 9: Accreditation of Continuing Legal Education Providers

a. Application may be made for accreditation as a continuing legal education provider by submitting the appropriate form to the Committee and paying the required fee.
b. The grant of accreditation shall be effective for a period of two (2) years from the date of the grant. Accreditation may be renewed upon compliance with the requirements of the Committee.
c. Accreditation of a continuing legal education provider may be revoked by the Committee, upon notice and hearing, for any of the following grounds:
   1. Failure to comply with any of the reporting requirements under the Rules and these Regulations;
   2. Sub-standard content of the course material or the quality of the continuing legal education activities as determined by the Committee under the Rules and these Regulations;
   3. Any misrepresentation in the application for accreditation as provider, or, in the application for approval of a continuing legal education activity; and
   4. Failure to comply with any other requirements of the Committee.
d. An applicant for accreditation as provider shall present a program of continuing legal education activity which meets the standards set forth in Section 2 of Rule 8.
e. For the renewal of its accreditation, a provider must demonstrate to the Committee that its continuing legal education activities have consistently met the standards of quality set forth in the Rules and in these Regulations.
f. Where a continuing legal education activity has been approved and the activity is offered by an accredited provider, the latter may announce, in its brochures and/or registration materials that: *"This program has been approved by the MCLE Committee for ______ hours of continuing legal education credit."*

Section 10: Reporting Duties of Providers

a) An accredited provider of a continuing legal education activity, program, or course is required to maintain an official record verifying the attendance of a member at the activity, program, or course for at least four (4) years after the completion date. The provider shall include the member in the official record of attendance only if the member's signature was obtained at the time of attendance at the activity, program, or course. The official record of attendance shall contain the member's name and number in the Roll of Attorneys and shall identify the time, date, location, subject matter, and length of the education activity. A copy of such record shall be furnished the Committee through the IBP.
b) The provider shall certify that:
   1. The activity has been approved by the Committee for ____ hours as appropriate to the content of the activity; and
   2. The activity conforms to the standards prescribed by the Rules and these Implementing Regulations.
c) Upon the termination of the continuing legal education activity, program or course, the provider shall issue a certificate of attendance to each participant identifying the time, date, location, subject matter and length of the activity and the number of credit units earned.
d) The provider shall allow in-person observation of all approved continuing legal education activities by members of the IBP Board of Governors, the MCLE Committee, or designees of the Committee and IBP Board for purposes of monitoring compliance with the Rules and these Implementing Regulations.
e) Any person or group who conducts an unauthorized legal education activity, program, or course and/or issues a spurious certificate in violation of the Rules and these Regulations, shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.

Section 11: Determination of Lawyer's Compliance

a) The Committee shall maintain current records of continuing legal education for every lawyer to whom the Rules and these Implementing Regulations apply. Pursuant to Committee policy, these records shall be made available to the lawyers concerned at a time and place convenient to the Committee.
b) The continuing legal education requirement must be completed by the end of the compliance period. Every lawyer not exempt under the Rules and these Regulations shall report to the Committee the credit units earned by him during the compliance period duly certified by the providers.
c) A lawyer whose report shows full compliance with the continuing legal education requirement shall be issued a compliance card by the Committee.

Section 12: Compliance Procedures

a. Each member not otherwise exempt under the Rules or whose exempt status the Committee may take judicial notice of, shall secure from the MCLE Committee a Compliance Card before the end of his compliance period. He shall complete the card by attesting under oath that he has complied with the education requirement or that he is exempt, specifying the nature of the exemption. Such Compliance Card must be returned to the Committee not later than the day after the end of the member's compliance period.
b. Each member shall maintain a sufficient record of compliance or exemption, copy furnished the MCLE Committee. The record or certificate issued by the provider to all participants identifying the time, date, location, subject matter and length of the activity shall be a sufficient record of attendance at such participatory activity. A record of non-participatory activity shall also be maintained by the member.
c. If a lawyer fails to comply with any requirement under the Rules, the Committee will send him/her a notice of non-compliance on any of the following deficiencies:
   1) Failure to complete the education requirement within the compliance period;
   2) Failure to provide attestation of compliance or exemption;
   3) Failure to provide satisfactory evidence of compliance (including evidence of exempt status) within the prescribed period;
   4) Failure to satisfy the education requirement and furnish evidence of such compliance within sixty (60) days from receipt of a non-compliance notice; and
   5) Any other act or omission analogous to any of the foregoing or intended to circumvent or evade compliance with the MCLE requirements.
d. A member failing to comply with the continuing legal education requirement will receive a Non-Compliance Notice stating his specific deficiency and will be given sixty (60) days from the receipt of the notification to explain the deficiency or otherwise show compliance with the requirements. Such notice shall be written in capital letters as follows:

YOUR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OR PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MCLE REQUIREMENT WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE, SHALL BE A CAUSE FOR LISTING YOU AS A DELINQUENT MEMBER AND SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF COMPLIANCE IS RECEIVED BY THE MCLE COMMITTEE.

The Member may use the 60-day period to complete his compliance with the MCLE requirement. Credit units earned during this period may only be counted toward compliance with the prior compliance period requirement unless units in excess of the requirement are earned, in which case the excess may be counted toward meeting the current compliance period requirement.

e. A member who is in non-compliance at the end of the compliance period shall pay a non-compliance fee of P1,000.00 and shall be listed as a delinquent member of the IBP by the IBP Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the MCLE Committee, in which case Rule 139-A of the Rules of Court shall apply

Section 14: Reinstatement

a) Involuntary listing as a delinquent member shall be terminated when the member submits proof of full compliance to the IBP Board of Governors. While he is on inactive status, he may earn the necessary credit units to complete the requirement for the period of non-compliance. These credit units may not be counted toward meeting the requirement of the current compliance period. Any excess credit units earned by him to satisfy the prior compliance period requirements, shall be counted towards meeting the requirements of the current compliance period.
b) The MCLE Committee shall be notified by the IBP Board of Governors of the reinstatement of a delinquent member.
c) Upon reinstatement, the member shall pay the IBP a reinstatement fee in the amount of P1,000.00.

Section 15: Reporting Period After Reinstatement

The compliance period for a member who is reinstated to active status following his/her suspension, disbarment or resignation shall start on the date of reinstatement and shall end at the conclusion of the next compliance period.

Section 16: Schedule of Fees

The following is the schedule of fees to be paid by providers and lawyers:

a. Fee to accompany application for accreditation as CLE provider P2,000.00
b. Fee to accompany application for approval of CLE activity 10% of the registration fees to be charged the attendees representing 75% of the seating capacity of the venue of the activity.
c. Fee to accompany application for exemption from CLE requirement under Rule 7, Section 3.. .P1,000.00
d. Fee for non-compliance with CLE requirement P1,000.00
e. Reinstatement fee P1,000.00

This resolution shall take effect on the first of December 2001, following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form 01
Date: ______
Action: ______
Applicant No._

ATTORNEY'S MCLE COMPLIANCE REPORT

1. Name______________________________
2. Address of Applicant: ______________________________
______________________ **e-mail address:** ______________________
3. Telephone ______________________ **Telefax** ______________________
4. Name of Representative:
5. Title of Representative:
6. Classification:

______ a) National Legal Organization
______ b) Local Legal Organization
______ c) Law Office
______ d) Law School
______ e) Bar Review Center
______ f) Others, please specify:__________

7. Required attachments to this Application:
   a) The duly accomplished application (MCLE Form 02) for approval of MCLE activity or program; and
   b) P2,000.00 non-refundable application fee. (P1,000.00 only for government educational institution or office and IBP Chapters)

8. Requirements of accredited providers:
   a) Comply with MCLE Rules and Regulations including any amendments thereto;
   b) Allow in-person observation of MCLE activity by the Committee or its designated representative to monitor, at no charge, any approved activity and without notice;
   c) Within 30 days after each MCLE activity, furnish the Committee with a brochure/summary of the program, its evaluation and an alphabetical list of attendees with Admission Roll Nos.;
   d) Conduct all MCLE activities substantially as advertised and represented to the Committee;
   e) File an annual report by March 1 each year, summarizing all MCLE activities held during the year;
   f) Pay a non-refundable annual fee of P2,000.00 by March 1 of each year. (P1,000.00 only for government educational institution or office and IBP Chapters0

9. An accredited provider acknowledges that its accreditation may be cancelled for violations of the MCLE Rules and Regulations, or failure to comply with the agreements and representations contained in this Application.

______________________________ ______________
Printed Name and Signature of Applicant/Representative Date

(Six (6) copies of this application and attachments thereto should be submitted to the MCLE Committee)

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
4th Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form No. 01-A

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION AS PROVIDER

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the ______________ with office Address at ______________________ duly accredited, as Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Provider for a period of two (2) years beginning ______________ to ______________ subject to the observance of its undertakings and reportorial duties under the Rules promulgated by the Supreme Court in Bar Matter No. 850, and Implementing Regulations issued by the Committee in furtherance thereof.

GIVEN THIS _____ day of ______ , 200__ in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

____
MCLE Committee Chairperson

______________________ ______________________
MCLE Committee Member MCLE Committee Member

______________________ ______________________
MCLE Committee Member MCLE Committee Member

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form 02
Date: ______
Action: ______

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF MCLE ACTIVITY/PROGRAM

1. Name______________________________
2. Address of Accredited Provider ______________________________
______________________ **e-mail address:** ______________________
3. Telephone ______________ **Telefax** ______________________
4. Name of Representative: ______________________________
5. Title of Representative: ______________________________
6. Subjects of MCLE Activity/Program

Subjects of MCLE Activity/Program	Lecturer	# Minutes	Date

7. Form of Presentation: __ Lecture Type with Speaker & Participants in the Room; ___ Seminars; ____ Conventions; ___ Conferences; ____ In-house Education Programs; ____ Dialogues ____ Round Table Discussions; ____ Symposia; ___ Workshops
8. Name, Business Address, Professional/Educational Background/and Practical or Teaching Experience of Speakers: (Attach Curriculum Vitae of each of the Speakers)
9. Registration Fee Charged each Attendee: P _____; **Expected No. of Attendees:** ____
10. Description of Physical Facilities: Location: __________
____ Classroom seating; ____ Theatre seating; _____ Writing Surface Available;
____ others, describe ______________________
11. Description of Materials Distributed:
____ Book; ___ Monograph; ___ Pamphlet; ____ Outline; ____ Brochure
12. Application will not be reviewed unless the following are attached:
   a) Copy of Program Agenda/Announcement brochures with program details;
   b) Curriculum Vitae of each of the Speakers; and
   c) A non-refundable application fee of P100.00 per participant/attendee subject to verification and reconciliation with the official attendance record submitted by the provider. A repeat or replay of the program shall be similarly subject to payment of this fee. Government educational institutions or offices and IBP Chapters accredited as MCLE provider, shall pay a nominal fee of P500.00 per application for approval of an MCLE activity/program.

13. Reportorial Requirements of accredited activity/program:
   a) Comply with MCLE Rules and Regulations including any amendments thereto;
   b) Allow the MCLE Committee or its designated representative to monitor, without prior notice, an approved activity. No. MCLE Committee member or their representative conducting the audit shall receive MCLE credit for that activity;
   c) Conduct all MCLE activities substantially as advertised and represented to the Committee;
   d) File a report within 30 days after the activity/program with a summary of the program, its evaluation, together with the accomplished MCLE attendance cards of the attendees.

______________________________ ______________
Printed Name and Signature of Accredited Provided/Representative Date

(Six (6) copies of this application and the attachments thereto should be submitted to the MCLE Committee 90 days before the scheduled activity/program)

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form No. 02-A

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the Seminar on Name of Program/Activity scheduled on November 24, 2001 held at Manila Diamond Hotel has been approved for MCLE purposes subject to the observance of all undertakings and reportorial requirements by the Provider Chamber of Custom Brokers Inc. with Office Address at Rm. 107, Port of Manila Building, South Harbor, Manila, which will provide the following program/activity.

Courses/Topics	Lecturer	Credit Units

and submit the reportorial requirements within one month after the presentation of the said program/activity.

GIVEN THIS ________ day of ________, at ____________________, Philippines.

____
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Chairperson

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form 03
Date: ______
Action: ______

ATTORNEY'S MCLE COMPLIANCE REPORT

1. Name______________________________
2. Mailing Address______________________________
3. Bar Admission Roll No. ____________ **e-mail address:** ______________
4. Telephone ______________________ **Telefax** ______________________
5. COMPLIANCE CREDIT SUMMARY:
(Please fill up form at the back)

Title of MCLE Activity/Program:	Subject Area	Provider	Date of Activity:	Category of Participation (Attendee, Law Lecturer/ Professor/Bar Reviewer, Author/Editor)	CU

6. CARRYOVER CREDITS
Credit units in excess of required 36 CU for the three year period to be carried over to the next period _______
7. EXEMPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS and Period Covered: (with application fee of P1,000.00)
REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:
____
____
____
____

8. Completion Plan: ____ I hereby request for additional time to complete the MCLE requirement under the MCLE Rules and Regulations. Attached is my proposed plan for completing the requirements. A non-compliance fee of P1,000.00 is enclosed herewith.

9. Required attachments to this Application:
   a) Certificate of Attendance in an accredited MCLE activity/program;
   b) Program Agenda of the Activity/Program or the announcement brochures that indicate the program details and the qualification of the faculty, if available;
   c) Certificate as Law Lecturer/Professor/Bar Reviewer/and published book, newsletter or journal of the Author or Editor; and
   d) Certificates/documents pertaining to exemption or modification of MCLE requirement.

10. I hereby affirm that the above information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

______________________________ ______________
Printed Name and Signature of Applicant Date

MCLE Form No: 04

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
4th Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue,
Origas Center, Pasig City
Philippines

(NAME OF PROVIDER/S)

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that______________________(Name) with Roll Number__________ of ______________________(IBP Chapter), attended the ______________________(Program/Activity), held at ______________________(Venue) on ______________

with the following particulars:

Courses/Topics	Lecturer	Credit Units

GIVEN THIS ________ day of ______________ at ______________, Philippines

SIGNED:

______________________ ______________________
(Provider) (Provider)

Note: The credit hours do not include the introductory and closing remarks, nor the breaks in the program. Open forum period is part of credit hours.

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form No. 05

EDUCATION ACTIVITY EVALUATION FORM

____
Provider
____
Education Activity Title
____
Venue
____
Date

RATING SCALE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Not at all	Minimal	Fair	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent

Using the rating scale, please indicate to what degree each accreditation standard was attained in this activity by encircling for Part I and checking for Part II, the number rating selected:

I. PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

A. Organized program/activity will improve professional competence:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B. Organized program/activity will improve ethical behavior:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
C. Suitable educational environment (free from interruptions; with working desk, etc.):
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
D. Seminar Procedure on registration, arrivals and departures:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Other comments/remarks:______________________________
____
____
____

LECTURERS:

A. ______________________(Name) ______________________(Course)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Mastery and Organization of Subject							
2. Clarity							
3. Use of Handouts and Visual Aids							
4. Citing Relevant Experience/Examples							
5. Ability to Establish Rapport							

Other comments/remarks: ______________________

II. What suggestion/s do you have to improve future seminar?
____

III. Other comments/remarks:
____

Note: Submission of this Evaluation Form duly accomplished to the Secretariat is required for the issuance of the Certificate of Attendance.

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form No. 06

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Date: ______________

To: ______________________
____
____

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please take notice that your record shows that you have not complied with the 36 hours Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirement under Bar Matter No. 850 as follows:

Courses/Topics	Requirement	Completed	Balance
LEGAL ETHICS	6 CU		
TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL SKILLS	4 CU		
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (Mediation/Arbitration)	5 CU		
UPDATES ON SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL LAWS AND JURISPRUDENCE	9 CU		
LEGAL WRITING AND ORAL ADVOCARY	4 CU		
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS	2 CU		
Other MCLE Committee Prescribed Subjects	6 CU		

You are hereby enjoined to complete the requirements before the end of sixty (60) days from receipt of this notice or on ______________________, by attending accredited activity/program and submitting to this office your corresponding certificate of attendance.

YOUR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OR PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MCLE REQUIREMENT WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE, SHALL BE A CAUSE FOR LISTING YOU AS A DELINQUENT MEMBER AND SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF COMPLIANCE IS RECEIVED BY THE MCLE COMMITTEE.

Yours truly,

____
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Chairperson

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
3rd Floor, IBP Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue
Origas Center, Pasig City

MCLE Form No. 07

RECOMMENDATION

____
Date

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Pasig City

Re: Suspension/Delisting/Readmission to the Bar
Of ______________________
IBP Roll Number ______________________
IBP Chapter ______________________

Your Honors:

The Committee, upon the basis of the report of the IBP Commission on Bar Discipline on Attorney ______________________, has found cause to recommend that he/she be suspended or listed as a delinquent member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Respectfully yours,

MCLE Committee Chairperson

Copy Received by:

____

Very truly yours,
LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court

Honorable Jose C. Vitug (x)
Associate Justice and Chairman
Committee on Legal Education
and Bar Matters
Supreme Court
Atty. Ma. Cristina B. Layusa (x)
Acting Bar Confidant
Office of the Bar Confidant
Supreme Court
Chairperson Carolina Griño-Aquino (x)
Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee
Supreme Court

Shell, San Mig eye semis seats

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES TODAY (Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra
7:10 p.m.—Talk N Text vs San Miguel

TOP SEED Shell will most likely miss two key players when it shoots for a semifinal seat against Barangay Ginebra at the start of the quarterfinals today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Swingman Rob Wainwright, Shell's top local scorer, and Benjie Paras are doubtful starters in the 5:05 p.m. game, casting a cloud of uncertainty on the Turbo Chargers' ability to slip into the next round with relative ease.

San Miguel Beer also attempts to get past Talk N Text in the second game for a semifinal stint. The Beermen and the Turbo Chargers enjoy twice-to-beat edges over their rivals.

Paras, the league's 1989 rookie-MVP, injured his left foot in practice, while Wainwright is suffering from a bum stomach.'

Their absence, coach Perry Ronquillo said, would leave a big dent on the Turbo Chargers' rotation and create some mismatches against the Kings.

Once superstars Vergel Meneses, Jun Limpot, Bal David and sparkplug Mark Caguioa explode, chances are the Kings will come out of the game wearing satisfied and happy faces.

"We don't have those kinds of talents. And with our key players on the injury list, the only way to beat Ginebra is to play as a team," said Ronquillo.

But psychologically, the Turbo Chargers have the edge as they had beaten the Kings during their lone meeting, 82-65, more than a month ago.

The Kings, however, closed out their elimination stint with back-to-back victories over Talk N Text and Tanduay while the Turbo Chargers lost to the Alaska Aces, 86-68, on Wednesday.

NBA RESULTS

Boston 101, Indiana 93; Dallas 107, Cleveland 94; Milwaukee 107, Washington 98; Philadelphia 100, Charlotte 86; Atlanta 111, Utah 79; Orlando 93, Phoenix 92; L.A. Clippers 106, Chicago 102; Toronto 89, Golden State 82. *AP*

Archers rip Ana cagers

ICTSI-ARCHERS subdued Ana Freezers, 76-68, while Montaña Jewels snapped a three-game losing streak with a hard-earned 75-70 triumph over Ateneo-Pioneer in a pair of exciting matches in the PBL Challenge Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Swingman Alvin Castro and Ronald Kuan made the crucial hits as the Archers turned back the challenge of the Freezers Kings in the see-sawing encounter.

In the first game, rebounding monster Francis Zamora and Mark Macapagal erupted for 13 points apiece as the Jewels solved the riddle of their last-minute collapses, beating the Insurers, who paraded the promising Billy Mamaril, 6-foot-6 son of ex-PBA slotman Romulo.

Delighting the crowd with his fadeaway shots, the 6-foot-5 Zamora also shackled Enrico Villanueva underneath. New Ateneo-Pioneer coach Ricky Dandan fielded Mamaril sparingly and the latter responded with eight points and eight rebounds.

"This is a big win for us. Hopefully, this will herald something big for the team," said Montaña mentor Turing Valenzona, who nearly figured in a fistfight with referee Boy Mallorca on the way to the dugout.

Dennis U. Eroa

MBA today
(Cebu Coliseum)
3 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Cebuana Lhuillier
(San Luis Sports Complex, Sta. Cruz, Laguna)
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs FedEx Laguna

Tension between PSC, athletes eased–Tuason

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason said he managed to ease the tension between the agency and the members of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines following their marathon meeting yesterday in the presence of a Malacañang official.

But while Acap officials, led by Jaime Sebastian, came out of the meeting satisfied with the recommendations given by President Arroyo to address their plight, the group remains firm in their stand to replace Tuason as PSC head.

"We are happy because the President showed her genuine concern for us," said Sebastian. "But that doesn't mean we have regained confidence in Tuason's administration."

Tuason addressed each of the group's concerns, particularly the salaries, food and living quarters of the athletes during the meeting that stretched from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and was held at the PSC building.

The PSC chief also promised to cut the number of foreign coaches who are being paid an average of P125,000 a month. There are at least 12 coaches in the PSC payroll.

During the meeting, Sebastian questioned the PSC's infrastructure spending, which he claimed, eats up a big portion of the agency's yearly budget.

The Acap president said the PSC built two big water pumps and installed air-conditioning units to the tune of P19 million in the past two years. Tuason countered that they are for the use of the more than 300 athletes billeted at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Sebastian said he hopes Tuason will fulfill his promises especially since a representative from the President Management Staff was present to monitor the meeting and report to the President what transpired.

The Acap chief, who is also the president of the Philippine Weightlifting Association, has filed a graft case against Tuason before the Ombudsman last week, citing irregularities allegedly committed by Tuason.

MASTERS CUP
Sebastian Grosjean of France pumps his fist after ousting Australia's Patrick Rafter, 7-6 (4), 6-3 in the Masters Cup in Sydney, Australia last Wednesday. AP

Soccer Cup at Alabang

THE SIXTH Alaska Football Cup reels off tomorrow with a record number of 2,500 players from 200 teams seeing action at the Alabang Country Club.

Patterned after the Gothia Cup in Sweden, simultaneous events will be held at 18 football fields where 11 age-group divisions are on tap for men, women, boys and girls.

The tournament, a project of Alaska Milk Corp. under the leadership of Wilfred Uytengzu and Joaquin Trillo, sports development manager, is organized by Tomas Lozano, founder of the Makati School and Alabang Football School.

Endorsed by the Philippine Football Federation and the NCR Football Association, the tourney will have competing teams from Metro Manila schools and clubs plus 30 squads from Cebu, Bacolod, Negros, Dipolog, Laguna, Albay and Dumaguete.

Invited to the opening ceremonies at 7 a.m. are Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason and commissioner Richie Garcia, PFF president Rene Adad, NCRFA president Santiago Elizalde and Frank Elizalde, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines.

The games will be held 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday.

Paeng, partner show way

FOUR-TIME World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno sparkled with a three-game series of 743 pinfalls as he and his partner Angelo Constantino took an insurmountable lead in the doubles event with an impressive 1389 total in the Pasig Bowling Association Bowling Open at the Green Valley Bowling Center.

Nepomuceno, who recently won the Thailand Masters, opened up with a sizzling 274 first game and then followed up with games of 222 and 247, while Constantino ably supported with games of 250, 189 and 207 for a 646 series.

Coming in second place are BJ Suarez and Larry Cua with 1334 followed closely by the pair of Mighty Ramiro and Boy Tagalag who are in third place with 1318. The lead of Paeng and Constantino are expected to hold in the tournament which ends on Sunday.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 9:30 a.m. (r–8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA – Toronto Raptors vs Phoenix Suns at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Sky Cable and Home Cable Channel 29, LA Lakers vs Houston Rockets at 10 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

New OTB stations

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Club and Manila Jockey Club recently opened air-conditioned off-track betting stations at Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar in Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

To celebrate their opening, Padi's Mindave is holding free concerts by talented bands and singers every night the whole of November and December. In another much-awaited sports event, Padi's Mindave invited men and women to join the Mindave Arm-Wrestling Challenge on Nov. 22. For inquiries, call 4530080, 4144930 or 34 or 9253117.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Love Song 2. Secret Currency 3. Runaway Bride 4. Grand Mushi 5. Emergency Blow
Race 2—2. War General 2. Emancipated Belle 3. Courage 4. Jackpot Baby
Race 3—1. Accurized 2. Our Hope 3. Perfect Storm/ Irish Star 4. Allusion 5. Another sam
Race 4—1. Respect the Ace 2. Miss Sleween 3. Queen Jamie 4. Let Me Pass 5. Victory Task
Race 5—1. Silver Eagle 2. Lucly El 3. Party Princess 4. Something Silver 5. Regal Reality
Race 6—1. Silver Print 2. True to Life 3. Queen of D Jungle 4. Baby Love 5. Ariana's Pride
Race 7—1. Bulwak 2. Mr. Bullseye 3. Main Street 4. Aurora Borealis 5. Talk to Patsy
Race 8—1. Winning Post 2. Strong Bird/Run Doding Fly 3. Green Leaves 4. Patutina 5. Accommodating
Race 9—1. Dragon Heart/Alluring 2. Guts 3. Adrenalin 4. Uzisaki 5. Taproot 6. Slew's Pleasure

Perfect gentleman

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

NO national basketball coach had ever won two international cage titles except the late Valentin "Tito" Eduque. In his lifetime, he gave the country the Asian Games championship in 1958 in Tokyo and the ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) crown in Manila in 1973. He also had the most number of international stints as national cage coach with five, surpassing Fely Fajardo's four and Chito Calvo's three.

Renowned for being "The Man in White," Tito Eduque was the perfect gentleman to his friends and colleagues because he was perpetually humble in victory and gracious in defeat, over-generous with people, thoroughly approachable and kind.

"He was liked and respected by many, including his opponents, because of his pleasant demeanor," recalled former POC president Julian Malonso, Tito's teammate in the 1946 UAAP champion team University of Santo Tomas, then known as the UST Glowing Goldies.

"I was older than Tito who died at the age of 74," said the 78-year-old Malonso. "My contemporary was his elder brother Armando "Mandy" Eduque, who, before the Pacific War, was already a standout junior player of La Salle where Tito was the team mascot. Mandy was killed by the Japanese during the Liberation, shot with a wooden bullet while running after his dog."

Born on Aug. 26, 1927, Tito belonged to an affluent family from Balayan, Batangas. The mother was a Martinez. Actor Leo Martinez is related to Tito, said Malonso.

United Auctioneers Inc.
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8:30 AM SHARP!
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North Expressway, South Service Road, Valenzuela, M. M.
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50 Toyota Lite Ace
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(02)929-0260
E-MAIL
Info@uauctioneers.com

Pasay 4-cock derby unfolds tonight

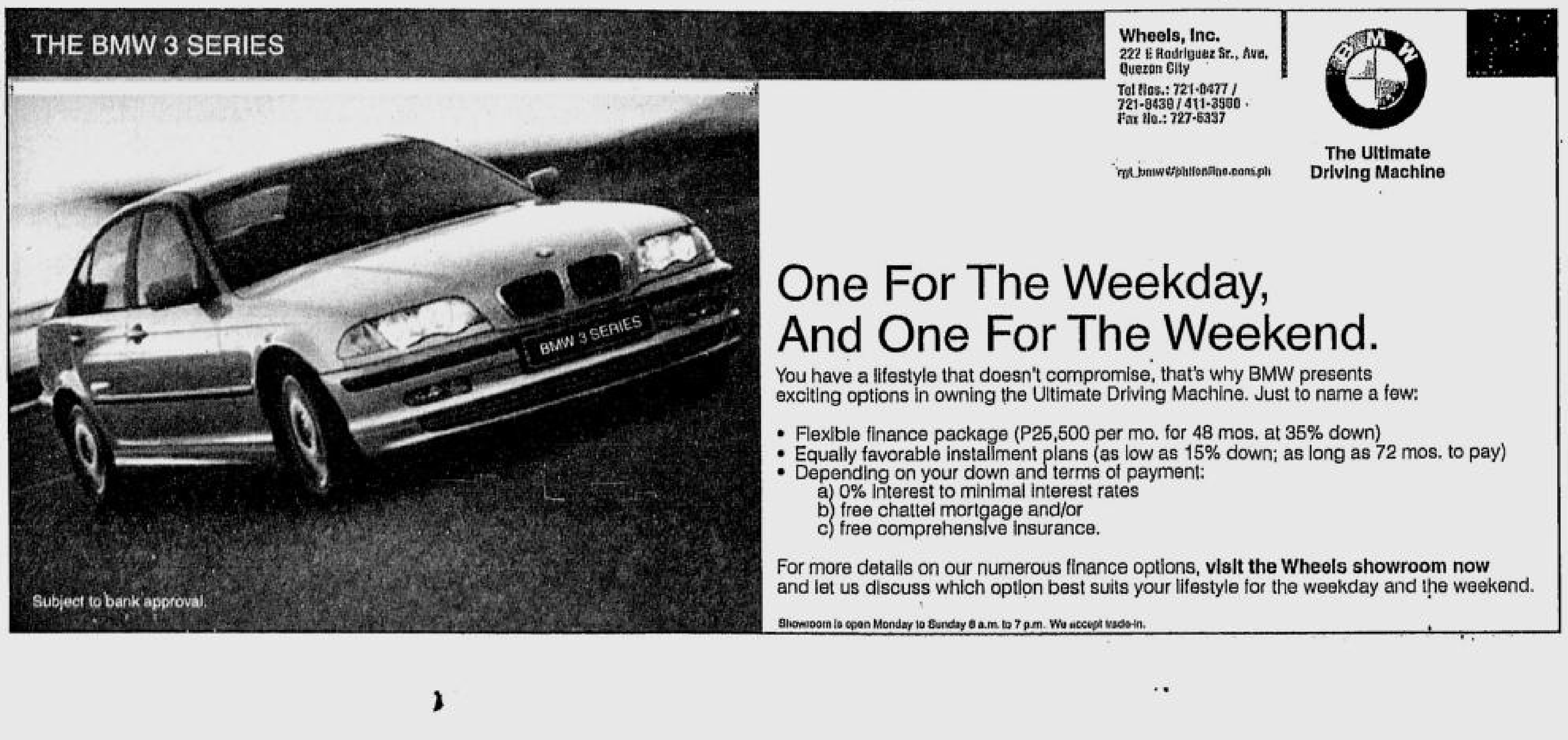
ALL roads lead to Pasay City Cockpit tonight when the much-awaited big-time 4-cock derby gets going at 7. More than 50 fights are on tap in the event hosted by businessman Ely Cruz, one of the most active derby participants in Metro Manila's cockfighting circuit.

At stake is P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000. Entries must be submitted today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For inquiries, please contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Also slated at PCC for the month of November are two more 4-cock events. These will be held on Nov. 23 (Danny Aguilar) and Nov. 30 (Cesar Bote).

Meanwhile, hackfights are held every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

SHOOTING MEET
Asean Armies Rifle Meet contingents commanders from (from left) Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines engage in a pistol novelty shoot at the AARM Firing Range in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City a day before the formal opening of the 11th AARM recently. This year's meet, hosted by the Philippine Army, will start tomorrow.



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Tel Nos.: 721-0477 / 721-8438 / 411-3500
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  a) 0% interest to minimal interest rates
  b) free chattel mortgage and/or
  c) free comprehensive insurance.
For more details on our numerous finance options, **visit the Wheels showroom now** and let us discuss which option best suits your lifestyle for the weekday and the weekend.
Showroom is open Monday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. We accept trade-in.

Makati table tennis tilt on

THE FIRST Mayor's Cup Table Tennis Team Championships unfolds Nov. 16-18 at the Olympia Sports Complex in Makati City.

The event is the third of a series to be conducted under the auspices of the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union which is headed by Councilor Jejomar "Junjun" S. Binay Jr.

Binay said that the tournament is a good vehicle for enhancing the interest of the youth in table tennis or "ping pong."

A total pot of P65,000 awaits the winners, with the top team bagging P10,000. The Corbillon Cup format will be used in the tourney.

Carl to Hall of Fame

INDIANAPOLIS—Carl Lewis, one of the United States' greatest track athletes, and three other members of the 1984 US Olympic team were voted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame on Wednesday. Lewis, long jumper-sprinter Larry Myricks and distance runners Henry Marsh and Alberto Salazar will be inducted Nov. 30 in Mobile, Alabama, during USA Track & Field's annual meeting.

Hewitt humbles Agassi

SYDNEY—US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt outgunned Andre Agassi Wednesday to secure a spot in the Masters Cup semifinals and enhance his chances of becoming the youngest player to claim the year-end No. 1 ranking. Hewitt's 6-3, 6-4 win moved him to within eight points Champions Race leader Gustavo Kuerten and sent the No. 3-ranked Agassi into a make-or-break clash Thursday against Sebastien Grosjean. AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Karate tourney Nov. 17

THE PHILIPPINE Karate Federation (PKF) National Open championships unfolds Nov. 17 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig. More than 200 karatekas from all over the country are joining the event which will be televised by IBC-13. Backing the tourney is Milo.

WINDS LASH RIVIERA

Ababa, Dumandan grab U-Bix lead

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MARY Grace Estuesta (left) and Vic Sotto still managed to celebrate after ballooning to a 90, their round marred by a 6 on a par 3 and a 10 on a par 5 in the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am at Riviera's Langer.

By Al S. Mendoza

SILANG, Cavite—Langer's dreaded winds lashed at Riviera all-day long yesterday, sending scores soaring.

First-day leaders Gerard Cantada and Eddie Boy Lopez, together with co-leaders Wendy Superal and Jerome Delariarte, were the most prominent victims at the halfway mark of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am.

Cantada and Lopez got blown away to a 13-over-par 84 and stood 7 shots behind new leaders Edgar Ababa and Marvin Dumandan in the PI-M event bankrolled principally by U-Bix president Bert Bravo.

Superal and Delariarte skied to an 85 for 158, tying them with Mario Siodina-Antonio Asistio (80), Ruperto Arcillas-Elmer Arcillas (79) and Jess Casas-Joselito Saragoza (81).

The leaders at 150 were Edgar Ababa and Marvin Dumandan, who fired one of three 74s in the series supported by DHL Philippines, San Miguel Beer, Pagcor, Mizuno and Pacific Grove (Residential Estate).

The second 74 was submitted by the father-and-son tandem of Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan even as Mars Pucay and Jose Roy sneaked into a tie for second at 151 after assembling the day's best of 73.

Ababa, a long-time pro, and Dumandan, a member of the national team that won a gold medal in the recent Kuala Lumpur Games through Juvic Pagunsan, held a 1-shot margin over a field that huffed and puffed their way to sky-high scores.

"The winds really killed us," said Cantada. "But we're not giving you an alibi. The course, tough as it already is, played tougher due to the strong winds."

Cantada and Lopez took the lead in Round 1 with a 73 in a tie with Superal and Delariarte.

But yesterday, Cantada and Lopez wobbled into the clubhouse licking the stigma of 7 wasted shots in the last three holes. They quadrupled the 18th after making 5 on the par-3 17th on a three-putt miscue from the rough.

The Pagunsans missed a tie for the lead with a bogey on 16 in the series that stakes a Toyota Altis as a hole-in-one prize on 17, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines through TMP's first VP for marketing Danny Isla.

"*Madaling buhatin si Tatay* (It's easy to carry my father,)" joked Juvic of his father, Juanito, who gunned down the day's most number of birdies with three.

But Ababa and Dumandan had the most decent finish yesterday, making birdie-par-bogey.

At 153 three strokes behind were Noli Kempis and Don Erwin Vinluan, who tabbed home the only other 74 after an opening-day 79.

Then five shots behind the leaders at 155 came the duos of Gerald Rosales and Comm. Danny Pizarro and Vivencio Lascuna and Jay Baron.

Rosales and Pizarro lost two strokes on the last two holes on bogeys for a 77 while Lascuna and Bayron settled also for a 77 after bogeying the last hole.

At 156 were Armando Eso and Neil Catalan after a similar 77 in the one-ball, two-some format that brings all 120 teams up to the last round in a no-cutoff affair.

Other scores:

158—Arcillas-Arcillas.

159—F. Fernando-M. Dizon, Cruz-Bakunawa, Diocares-Igaya, Ebreo-Brobio.

160—Balan-Gironella, Estrera-Buencamino, Gaviola-Laput.

161—Sinluego-Yulo, R.Minoza-B.Minoza, Lopez-Plana, Cuello-Tecson.

162—Choi-Lee, Dolojan-Dipelo, Pactolerin-Uchida, Fernando-Wong, Sasutil-Paz.

163—Jorge-Bernaldez.

164—Cuello-Susarno, Sumcad-Cho, C. Casas-Ignacio.

165—Villaruz-Kaligbak, Abaring-Celestino, Villacencio-Hinch.

166—Marave-Torrecampo, Magada-Mendoza, Mondilla-Jaraulo, Fernando-Fernando, Olaybar-Asistio.

RP Cuppers 5 strokes off leaders

RODRIGO Cuello and Danny Zarate, playing with thermal outfits they've never worn before, assembled a respectable five-under-par 67 yesterday but still dropped five shots off the leaders in the opening round of the EMC World Cup of Golf in Gotemba City, Japan.

Zarate and World Cup first-timer Cuello managed their games well under the best-ball format although they still ended the day sharing 18th spot with China, Argentina and Norway.

The RP duo, however, was just a stroke off the highly-fancied United States pair of Tiger Woods and David Duval, the defending champions who were one of seven teams sharing 11th spot.

Scotland, Sweden and Canada showed up the 24-team field fighting for the $1 million top prize out of the $3 million total pot with similar 62s at the Taiheyo Golf Club.

Zarate said he and Cuello have adjusted well enough to the playing conditions, putting the RP pair –flown to Japan by Philippine Airlines–just in the right spot when play shifts to the alternate shots format in the second round on Friday.

The Philippines plays with China at 10:15 a.m. in the second round.

"We missed some chances to get a better score but we're very happy with the way we finished today. Tomorrow is a big day," said Zarate. "It's a good thing we've gotten used to our Pisanti thermal wear."

The other seeded teams also bolted into contention with the Sergio Garcia-powered Spain tied for second with New Zealand at 63 and South Africa's Ernie Els and Retief Goosen sharing sixth at 64.

Meanwhile, in West Palm Beach, Florida, Dorothy Joy "Dot" Delasin tees off with Sophie Gustafson of Sweden in the first round of the $1-million Tyco/ADT Championship at the Trump International Golf Club.

Delasin is seeking her third victory this season. She just needs $51,096 or a tie for fourth to become the youngest player in LPGA history to cross the $1 million mark in career earnings. *Jong Arcano*

Arevalo gains semifinal round

CZARINA Mae Arevalo dumped fourth seed Radhika Mandke of India, 6-3, 6-2, yesterday to advance in the women's singles semifinals of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Paco.

Arevalo, a 16-year-old high school junior at Angelicum School, eliminated her rival in only 45 minutes.

"I had a good game today," said Arevalo, who will next meet second seed Shruti Dhawan of India.

Dhawan struggled past seventh pick Korean Kim Yoo-Jeong, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (3) in the other quarterfinal match of his event supported by Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, Eastern Telecom, Stronghold Insurance, PVL Restaurant, Little Lawrence, Wilson, Unilab, Cathay Drug Company, Copacobana Hotel and official ball Dunlop.

Earlier, top seed and world's No. 511 Radhika Tulpule blasted defending champion Kim Hye-Jin of Korea, 6-2, 6-0, to forge a semifinal showdown with compatriot and third seed Sonal Phadke, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over No. 8 Josephine Paguyo.

Tan prevails

JOSHUA Tan Ho of Xavier School was crowned boys' 10-under singles and doubles champion in the just-concluded Paeng Open International Juniors Tennis Championships in Malaysia.

Efren joins Poland meet

NEWLY crowned Tokyo 9-Ball meet champion Efren "Bata" Reyes left Japan for Poland Thursday in pursuit of a third major title this year.

Reyes will compete in the $50,000 World Pool League in Warsaw slated Nov. 16-18 featuring eight invited pool pros including reigning world champion Mika Immonen of Finland, five-time world champion Earl Strickland of the United States and countrymen Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

The 47-year-old Filipino pool pro, popularly known as "The Magician," easily defeated Neils Feijen, 15-7 (not 15-5 as previously reported) in the final of the Tokyo meet and win the whopping first prize of 20 million yen (US$160,000).

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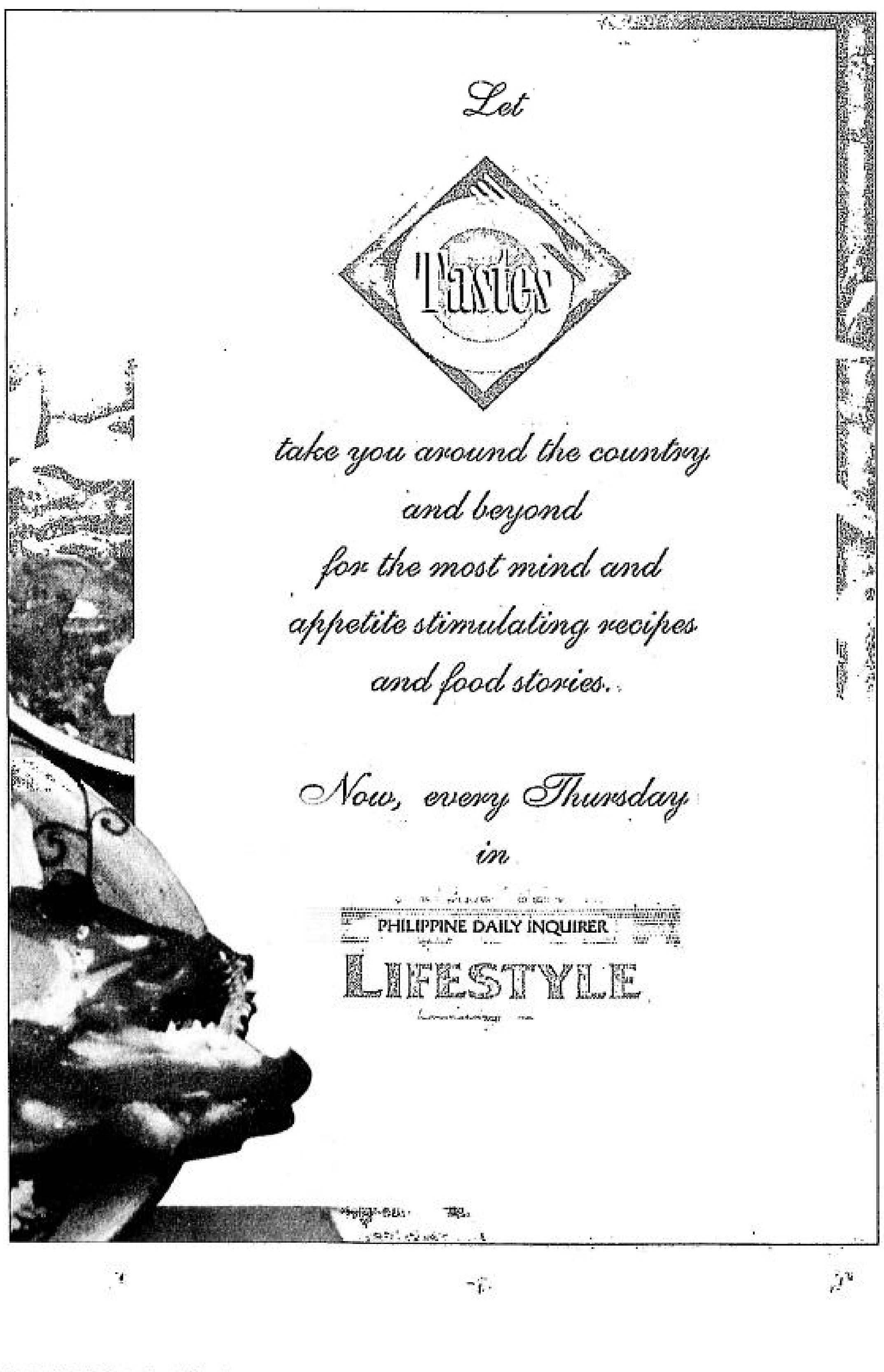

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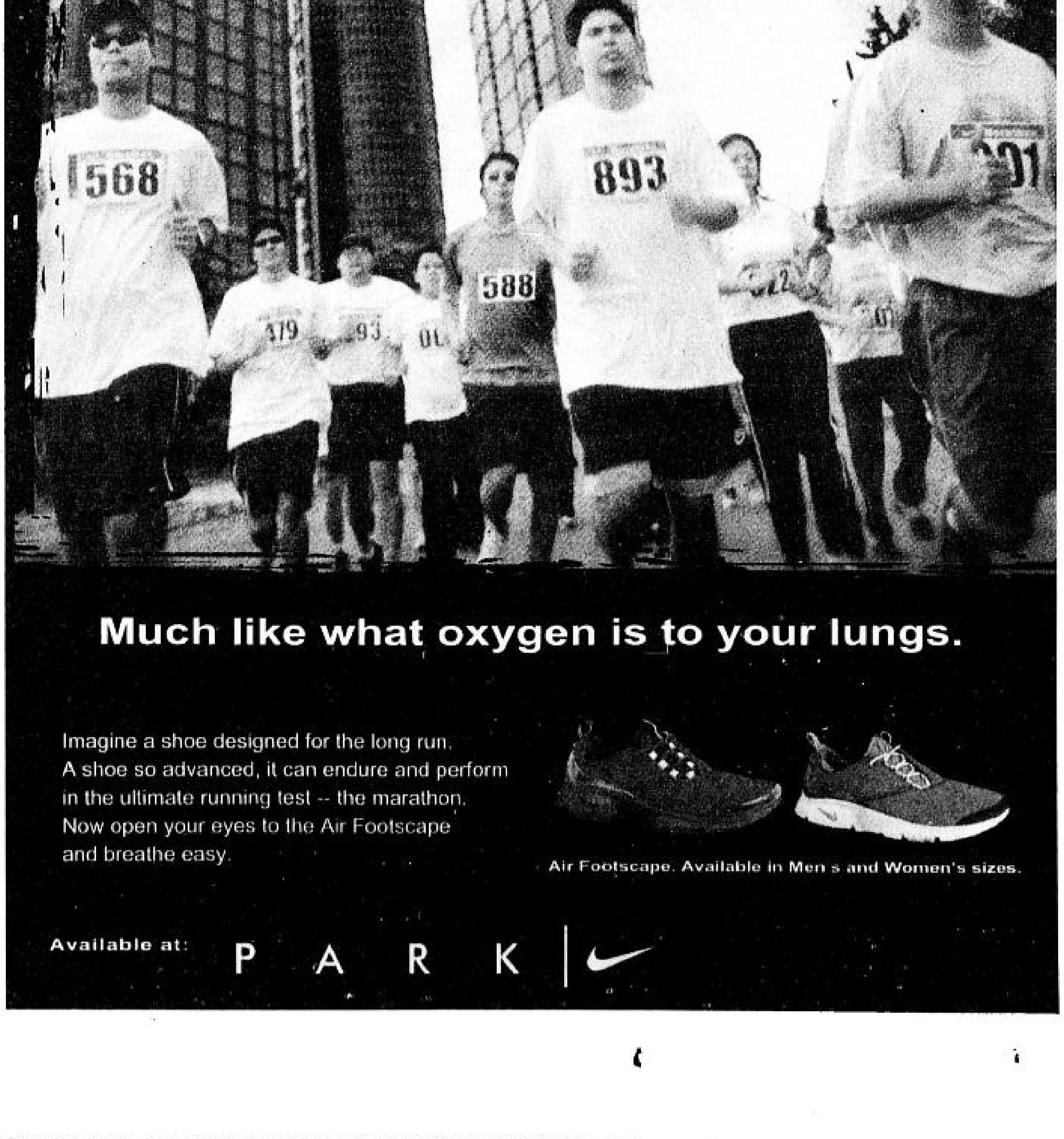

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Bare Eye: The blind GMA game; the Pasig ferry solution A26

NO to U.S. TOXIC TERRORISM
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'POISONED'

Bearing photos of children suffering from diseases caused by toxic wastes, members of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup rally outside the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila to urge the US government to remove the toxic residue from their former American air base in Angeles City, Pampanga. ERIK ARAZAS

Mayors now favor recycling system

By Christian V. Esguerra,
Alcuin Papa
and Dona Pazzibugan

A NEW system called thermoselect technology is the best solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem, the mayors are now saying.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday said he and other Metro Manila mayors have agreed to push for the new technology, which supposedly recycles waste completely into useful secondary raw materials through a high-temperature process.

Marquez stressed that thermoselect is not an incineration process, which has been banned by the Clean Air Act.

"It is environmentally-friendly and we think it will work," said Marquez of the new technology.

It would also complement the waste segregation and composting system of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

"In three to five years, we'll phase out the new technology," he said. "We believe that by that time, everybody would already be segregating and recycling garbage."

He said he would be organizing a garbage summit among towns and cities in southern Metro Manila to discuss thermoselect. He also offered to provide a site in Parañaque for a thermoselect plant, which would process the garbage of Pasay, Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Las Piñas and Parañaque.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pushed for the use of incinerators to dispose of garbage. But this drew protest from various environment groups, including Greenpeace Philippines, which on Tuesday accused the mayors of wanting to benefit from possible kickbacks through commissions from incineration projects.

Engineer Rafael Borromeo, head of the Manila Department of Sanitation, said the accusations against the mayors who favored incinerators were baseless and "so unfair to the mayors who are trying their best to ease the garbage problem."

Manila 5th district Councilor Juan Miguel Cuna called the Greenpeace allegations malicious.

But MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. also opposed the use of incinerators, saying the reason why the mayors wanted to use incinerators was "their weakness in enforcing the waste segregation law" and their inability to set aside politics in solving the garbage crisis.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself refused to make a stand on the use of incinerators to solve the waste problem.

Speaking before the Filipino community in San Francisco, California yesterday, Ms Macapagal said she would leave the decision to lawmakers.

"What I can say is..,whatever is enacted by Congress, we'll implement," she said, responding to queries on her policy about the use of incinerators.

She said each Metro Manila town and city should take responsibility for its own garbage.

"It's really much better to have each local government unit to take care of its own garbage," she said.

Local officials have not agreed on how they would solve the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

In Navotas, Mayor Toby Tiangco said a 10-hectare property in Barangay Tanza looms as the site of a "controlled disposal facility" which adheres to Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

RA 9003 allows local governments to use a controlled disposal facility for five years from the effectivity of the law.

The Tanza area is 4 km from the nearest residential area, according to Tiangco. Because the area is not accessible by land, barges would transport the garbage to the controlled disposal facility, he said.

The Tanza property was inspected and approved by the DENR last Oct. 15.

The site can take in 2,000 metric tons of garbage daily for a period of one year. Since Navotas generates only 130 mt of garbage daily, Mayor Toby Tiangco is seriously studying the possibility of accommodating garbage from nearby cities until such a time a permanent garbage disposal facility for Metro Manila is built, as long as the volume does not exceed 2,000 mt per day.

Metro Manila generates from 6,000 to 8,000 tons garbage daily. "In times of crisis LGU's must help each other in solving our problems," Mayor Tiangco said.

With the Tanza facility, the municipality of Navotas will be able to save at least P30 million per year, since it will not be needing the services of a contractor, who is responsible for hauling garbage from the present transfer station at the corner of C4 and R10 roads to its final destination.

The savings would be put to use in pursuing its various development projects, Tiangco said.

Garbage has already piled up at the transfer station since the municipality's contractor is having difficulty disposing of the garbage. There is approximately a backlog of 1,200 truckloads at the transfer station.

MAYORS/ A26

'Housemaid' robs mother of PDI Lifestyle editor

By Nelson F. Flores

A THIEF posing as a housemaid hit the household of a couple of editors of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and took over P60,000 in cash and valuables.

Police said Alie de Castro, 22, disappeared on Nov. 12 after she stole P42,000 in cash, a mini disc player and a watch worth at least P20,000 from Jovencia Banal, mother of Inquirer Lifestyle editor Chelo Banal Formoso.

Mrs. Banal, 73, told police she discovered the theft only on Tuesday, a day after De Castro disappeared.

Mrs. Banal, who lives with her daughter Chelo and the latter's family in Goodrich Village, Concepcion, Marikina City, said they hired De Castro on Nov. 10.

She said they got De Castro from a placement agency, Personnel Management Services on J.P. Rizal Avenue corner Sacramento Street in Makati. The agency is owned by Luisa Benedicto.

Banal described De Castro as about five feet tall, stocky, dark, with hair past her shoulders, and spoke Tagalog with an Ilocano accent.

On Nov. 12, De Castro told another maid at the household that she was going to buy sanitary napkin at the corner store. That was the last they heard from her, Mrs. Banal told police.

Lifestyle editor Formoso suspects the thief could be part of a robbery ring because of the way she operated.

"She knew what to take," she said of the suspect. "She took the money and left the wallet, leaving only enough money in it."

HOUSEMAID/A26

Crame cops accused of kidnapping three

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER they complained about finding a rat's tail in the food they were served in a canteen in Ermita, Manila, three men went missing.

Three men, said to be policemen from Camp Crame, and a retired colonel kidnapped complainants Willie Eclipse, Vel Candelaria and Marlon Escoba on Wednesday, according to the missing men's friend Catherine B. Penafiel.

Penafiel, 23, of Mandaluyong City, filed a complaint with the Western Police District and identified one of the alleged kidnappers only as a retired Colonel Lorenzo, said investigator PO2 Rommel Anicete of the WPD General Assignment Section.

Penafiel told police investigators that her friends were eating at a canteen on Zobel Street in Ermita when they allegedly found a rat's tail in their food.

The canteen is owned by Sheila Sy, according to Penafiel.

The three men went to the barangay hall about 1 p.m. Wednesday to complain against Sy, who was said to have agreed to pay them P15,000 each in exchange for dropping their charges, Penafiel said.

She said four men showed up at the barangay hall and arrested her friends.

They were supposed to have been brought to Camp Crame, but they have not appeared since then, she said.

Police said canteen owner Sy could have filed charges of extortion against Penafiel's friends who should have been brought to the WPD station instead of to Camp Crame.

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The blind GMA game; the Pasig ferry solution

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WE all crave for solutions. Every day. We pray, we sulk, we protest, we beg, we try to do everything.

Sorry. As the old folks would say: No can do! *Wa epek. Wala na talagang pag-asa.*

Still we don't give up.

There's no other place to go. This is the only one we've got.

All we crave for is a little breather, pleeease!

So we get up again, pray, sulk, protest, we try to do everything.

But what do we get after paying our taxes? More trash, worsening traffic, more frightening criminality, rampant lawlessness, all the stink, all the dirt and rot.

And, on top of all this, rampant, shameless mismanagement.

***

No, this is not an out-and-out protest leaflet.

It's a plea, a prayer, for the President to finally be able to wake up and gain enough courage to boot out all the key Cabinet men, the agency chiefs in charge of our cities, our urban way of life, who have all failed dismally in their jobs.

Let's hope that her current visit to USA helps take away the blinders.

Let's hope she learns how the honest, proper disciplined system works.

And may she finally see with her own eyes and realize that nothing would work if she kept all the inept, ignorant, corrupt, dumb officials she has rewarded with key government jobs out of pure accommodation, *utang na loob.*

Yes, there are better, more intelligent, determined, deeply committed men who can do the job.

Problem is these great, hardy souls may never ever get Malacañang's attention.

All for one silly reason: They were not Edsa 2 key players, unlike the MMDA chair and the DILG chief.

***

Of course, there are sure remedies waiting out there.

But, as in the case of the incinerators which would soon be rammed down our throats, not to mention our nostrils, they suddenly loom as novel, safe, sure and sacred because, you guessed it, of the waiting secret dividends for the jaded decision makers who would approve their use in the hopelessly polluted metropolis.

There are other safer solutions waiting to be tapped.

But these will remain untried because, huh, huh, there is no promise of kickbacks.

An idea, no matter how evil and rotten, can suddenly turn safe and sure, depending on how official palms are greased.

***

There are safe, sane, sacred solutions.

For example, let's take the suggestion of our colleague Neal Cruz who yesterday noted in his popular main section column that the Pasig River ferry could be revived to help ease the hopeless traffic situation in Metro Manila.

Wrote Mr. Cruz: "A Pasig River ferry has been tried but the business failed because of lack of passengers. It does not mean, however, that a river ferry cannot be successful here."

Mr. Cruz noted that the initial effort failed because the boats used were small and low on the water, and that people were afraid to ride on them.

"Besides," he added, "because they were so low on the water, the aroma of the polluted river assailed the nostrils of the passengers."

He suggested bigger, glass-enclosed ferries, like the single-decked boats they use at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

***

Thank you very much, sir. You were very correct there.

But, if we may add, efforts to fully revive the Pasig River ferry system had repeatedly failed because they operated it without first studying the needs, habits and whims of the end-users.

We mean here the countless residents of riverside communities in, say Makati, Mandaluyong and Manila itself.

Yes, they had tried the ferry system in that old route—the Pasig River—which used be the main highway of Old Manila and its environs, as Mr. Cruz has aptly noted.

The effort, however, failed and foundered because of one major fault: There were only two main passenger points, in Guadalupe and Sta. Ana, which the Manila-bound residents could use.

Nothing wrong with only two berthing plazas if these are accessible to the great body of passengers.

The terrible problem—and we mean terrible—was that, in order to reach those loading places, riverside residents had had to first take at least one jeepney ride.

Naturally, if they still had to ride, they would just elect to use the road and take a jeep or bus all the way to their Manila destination.

What's the use taking a boat when you still have to take a jeep in order to ride one?

***

Take it from one who has spent all his many years living and loving by the banks of the great, legendary Pasig.

A Pasig River ferry system would be a sure hit, it would be patronized and praised, if would-be investors could use their heads, open and construct simple loading plazas in riverside communities, like Vergara, Hulo, Namayan, Punta, that dot the route leading to Manila.

To repeat, it's all too simple: If riverside residents had had to take one jeepney ride in order to catch the ferry in either Guadalupe and Sta. Ana, the saner solution would be to just go by land transportation all the way. The better to save on money and time.

But if, say, residents could just walk down the riverside, wait a little and get their boat ride to Manila, only a gallivanting fool would disregard the sweet convenience. (Of course, there should be a strict schedule and the boats must come on time.)

Previous Pasig River ferry ventures did not succeed because their owners obviously forgot to use their common sense.

LP anti-poverty program cited

LAS Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar has been cited by the World Bank for successfully improving the socio-economic conditions of the disadvantaged sector in his city.

Aguilar said that more than 20,000 families have benefited from the city government's housing and comprehensive community development project as depressed areas were developed into model communities.

World Bank international consultant on economic and financial, development and poverty Dr. Mohiuddin Alamgir said he was impressed by Aguilar's initiatives to improve the lot of the impoverished sector.

Dr. Alamgir and WB Senior social scientist Bhuvan Bhatnagar visited Las Piñas' Hong Kong Village, a former depressed area developed into a model community, to determine what support the WB could extend to the residents and to the city government.

PNR workers threaten stoppage

EMPLOYEES of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) yesterday threatened to paralyze train operations starting Nov. 23 if President Macapagal-Arroyo would not give in to their demand to replace their general manager, Jose Ma. Sarasola II.

The planned work stoppage is expected to affect PNR's 20,000 to 30,000 commuters who take the train daily.

Edgar Bilayon, president of the 2,000-strong Bagong Kapisanan ng mga Mangagawa sa PNR-ITF, said they would be compelled to resort to such action if their plea would fall on deaf ears.

The employees had accused Sarasola of graft and corruption and had lodged a formal complaint against him before the Office of the Ombudsman over the alleged overpriced purchase of train spare parts amounting to about P17 million.

Bilayon said Sarasola had also been harassing union officers by suspending some, including Bilayon himself, without due process.

"We hope the President will finally listen to us for the sake of PNR," Bilayon said.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Mayors . . .

(From page A25)

With the new Controlled Disposal Facility, Navotas will have no need for the transfer station. "This is a prime location which has excellent potentials since the property has a clear view of Manila Bay and is right at the corner of C4 and R10 roads, therefore we should close the transfer station and develop it into a commercial area," Mayor Tiangco said.

The mayor also assured that the project planners had taken into consideration the environmental impact of the facility. As safety measure, a buffer zone and litter fences will be built to see to it that garbage is properly contained. The waste will also be sprayed with organic enzymes the moment it is loaded onto the barges and again when it reaches the Disposal site to ensure that it does not smell. A six-inch daily soil cover will be another safety protection against the stench and scavenging birds and animals at the disposal site.

The project will have a "closure plan" that would make the site safe after its use as a controlled disposal facility. Gas vents will be installed to prevent methane gas from building up beneath the soil.

"It is necessary for me to have the facility ready by mid-December since the present transfer station can only accommodate garbage up to that time, after which we will have problems collecting garbage. We cannot allow this to happen since garbage left uncollected in the streets can lead to health problems and aggravate flooding in Navotas," Tiangco said.

Navotas is this years Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran Awardee as the "Cleanest and Greenest Municipality in NCR."

'Housemaid' . .

(From page A25)

Formoso, whose husband Bill Formoso is also an editor of the Inquirer news section, said she would file a civil lawsuit against the owner of Personnel Management Services recommending De Castro to a household without a proper background check.

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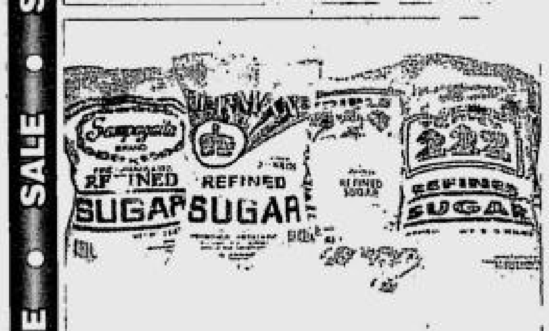

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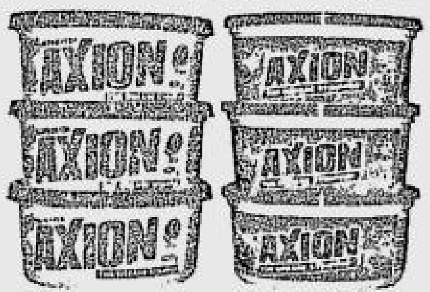

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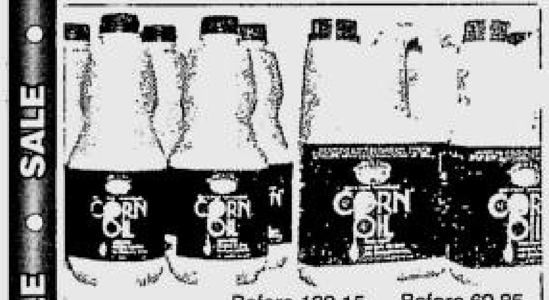

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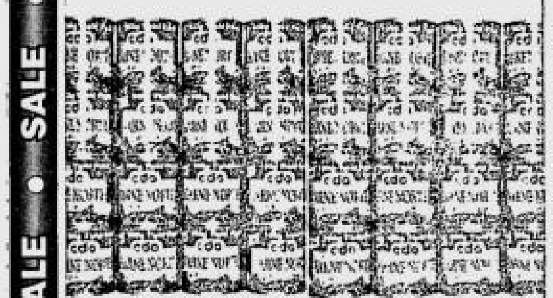

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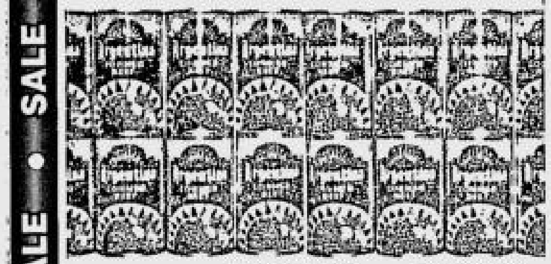

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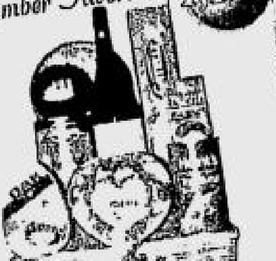

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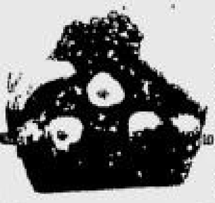

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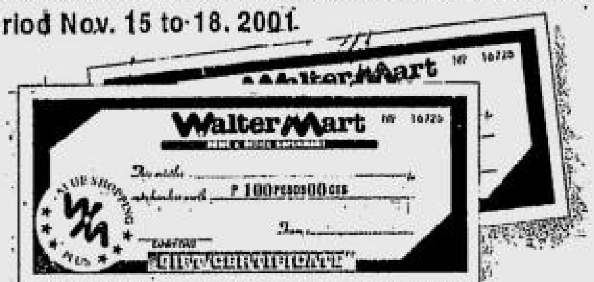

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Ynez Veneracion can sing and she has a record to show for it

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN someone like sexy star **Ynez Veneracion** attempts to sing, chances are people will think she has a ghost singer.

That is not surprising. But when someone like Ynez, who made a name for herself by baring on the big screen, dares to release an album, that's a different story altogether.

Although acting is her first love, Ynez gets to fulfill another dream by coming out with her self-titled debut album under Dyna Records.

Very few probably know that Ynez, who is **Sheryl del Rosario** in real life, used to sing in school plays and programs when she was younger. She might not have the makings of a diva back then, but Ynez knew how to entertain an audience.

When she entered show biz, however, Ynez reluctantly joined the bold genre, which then dominated the local movie scene. But it didn't take long for her to be recognized as a serious actress. She starred in **Maryo J. de los Reyes**' controversial sex-drama, "Ang Paraiso ni Efren," which earned for her several acting nominations.

Last year, Ynez even had the chance to pit acting talents with **Maricel Soriano** in **Joel Lamangan**'s "Abandonada."

"It was never easy for me," says Ynez who, at 21, admits to being the breadwinner of her family. "I had to go with the trend, but I didn't regret it. People came to know me initially as a bold star. But after 'Ang Paraiso ni Efren,' I vowed to really work harder at my craft to gradually erase that image."

Ynez had the chance to come out with an album a few years back, when Viva Records offered her a contract. She was able to record only one song, "Aawitin Ko na Lang," but soon got enmeshed in a controversy when ABS-CBN's public affairs show, "Correspondents," tried to picture her as a call girl.

She was caught by a hidden camera inside a hotel room, dealing with an unidentified man. But Ynez swears the whole scene was planted. She said she later found out it was her former talent manager who was trying to pimp her.

"When it happened, Viva canceled my album," Ynez discloses. "I was really disappointed. Some people were telling me to file a case against ABS-CBN for tarnishing my image. But then, I thought, it's like fighting with a giant. I don't have the resources."

When she later asked **Manny Valera** to manage her career, Ynez expressed her desire to pursue her recording dream. They did a demo tape and Manny approached **Howard Dy**, the big boss of Dyna Records.

Fortunately, Howard got interested and in no time, he asked Ynez to sign a recording deal.

With the help of **Larry Hermoso**, who penned the carrier single "Bakit Ikaw Pa Rin," and **Cesar Manahan**, who produced the album, Ynez was able to release her recording debut.

"Even after we completed the album, many were surprised that I could sing," Ynez shares. "Even the DJs didn't want to believe. They think I have a ghost singer, which is really easy to do."

With the release of her album, Ynez is out to prove that she is no mere screen bimbo.

"I really hope the public will give me a chance and accept me as a singer."

She says, however, that she is not out to compete with the other sexy stars-turned-recording artists such as **Jessa Zaragoza, Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Ara Mina**.

"I don't really mind if some people refer to me as 'the bold star who became a singer,'" Ynez allows. "At least, they still give me the tag that I am a singer."

Ogie is the top choice

I WAS among those who previewed the advanced episodes for the local version of "Family Feud," to be hosted by **Ogie Alcasid** on ABC 5 starting Nov. 19, 8 p.m.

Watching the popular game show then, I never thought a local version was possible. But with Ogie stepping into the shoes of **Richard Dawson**, ABC 5 appears to have a winner in "Family Feud."

The fact that Ogie has a wealth of hosting experience, even in now-defunct game shows, makes him an ideal host for "Family Feud." Add to this his talent as a comedian, so he is able to establish instant rapport with his audience.

Ogie is witty and funny, yet you can tell there's something between his ears. There are comedians who are brilliant in making people laugh. But disappointingly, when you try to pick on their brains, you get nothing.

Ogie's spiel's are spontaneous. He doesn't really need to rely on the script because he knows what to say and when to say it. He can poke fun at the contestants without offending them. And listen to him when he shouts, "Survey says..." He sounds better than Richard Dawson!

Ogie's hosting stint on "Family Feud" marks his homecoming of sorts to ABC 5, where he bannered the top-rating gag show, "Tropang Trumpo." That's why he also became the top choice of the network executives to host one of its three game shows to be launched this month:

Rustom Padilla will ask contestants to solve word puzzles on "Wheel of Fortune," with **Victoria London** as his "Vanna White." Meanwhile, **Dawn Zulueta** will be the local version of **Bob Barker** in "The Price is Right."

"Family Feud" is expected to be an instant hit with the viewers. As one entertainment columnist commented, "You don't have to answer difficult questions to win cash prizes in the show."

All you have to give are common answers to popular survey questions, some of which can even be a no-brainer.

Ogie is optimistic that "Family Feud" will also be a winner in the ratings, because of its tried-and-tested format which has become popular in the United States for over two decades now.

Among the three game shows of ABC 5, I am betting my aces on "Family Feud," which can give the game shows in rival networks tough competition.

It's the season of game shows on TV. That should give the audience a reason to be "merry."

Mere talking head

I CAUGHT the premiere of **Aljo Bendijo**'s current affairs program, "Sapul Ka Dyan," Saturday night, 10:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

I heard the show was an 11th hour replacement for **Charlene Gonzales**' "Keep on Dancing," which was canceled after its host gave birth.

The production team of "Sapul Ka Dyan" was given only a week to prepare for a new program. Considering the time pressure, "Sapul Ka Dyan" wasn't really a letdown.

Aljo's program runs for 30 minutes. His pre-programming is another new current affairs show, "Kakasa Ka Ba," hosted by **Connie Sison** and patterned after the American program "Who Dares Win."

After being **Korina Sanchez**'s co-anchor on "TV Patrol," Aljo was given his own program, which is patterned after "World's Most Amazing Videos."

"Sapul Ka Dyan" makes use of the ABS-CBN video archive, where footage of old news clips have been well preserved.

The "Sapul Ka Dyan" crew doesn't have to go out in the field or run after interesting personalities for interviews. It doesn't even require a regular set. The ABS-CBN video archive serves as the backdrop.

The materials are already available and the writers simply update the viewers about certain events, like the attempted assassination of former First Lady **Imelda Marcos**, who was stabbed by a farmer in 1972.

VENERACION. From sexy star to recording artist

ALCASID. Hosts the local version of "Family Feud" on ABC 5

BENDIJO. Hosts his own current affairs program

Aljo, however, was reduced to a mere talking head in "Sapul Ka Dyan," after he showed much promise as a broadcast journalist on "TV Patrol."

On the pilot telecast of "Sapul Ka Dyan," Aljo, aside from delivering his spiels, was shown just pulling out one video reel after another from the shelves.

I don't know if Aljo has a hand in editing the videos or writing the script. If he doesn't, he is wasting his talent in "Sapul Ka Dyan."

But I enjoyed the out-takes with members of the ABS-CBN news team. It was a portion to look forward to, patterned after "Bloopers, Blunders and Practical Jokes."

Erwin Tulfo was caught on-cam testing his microphone while singing a few lines of **Anne Murray's** "You Needed Me." **Doris Bigornia**, in the middle of her stand-upper inside an MRT coach, was heard cursing a crew member who dropped her Mac makeup.

The videos were spontaneous and downright funny.

Mark Lapid follows in his dad's footsteps

AT 5'10", Mark Lapid is easily a standout. When Megabuilt Films producer Raoul Cruz was looking for a new action star for his initial offering, "Dugong Aso," Mark at once fit in the lead star's shoes.

Cruz didn't even know that Mark is the son of action star-turned-Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid. So when the producer learned of the young action star's genes, the more he got interested to cast him in the lead.

Stardom, though, isn't handed to Mark in a silver platter. In fact, before "Dugong Aso," he has had five movies as supporting actor, the latest of which was the Judy Ann Santos-Mikey Macapagal Arroyo starre, "Mahal Kita, Maging Sino Ka Pa," under MMG Films.

Even as a child, Mark looked up to his father as an icon. "Whatever his costume was, I also had it," he recalls. "Even his horse, I had the same kind."

It came as no surprise when Mark grew up to be an action star even off-cam. He nearly broke his back in a fall after he tried to imitate a stunt performed by his dad in a movie.

Now, he has put them to good use in his launching film, "Dugong Aso," where he gets the honor to be directed by his father.

Playing Mark's leading lady in the action flick is Kristine Hermosa.

Of course, it's public knowledge that Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific title holder Darlene Carbungco is Mark's girlfriend.

In "Dugong Aso," Mark is supported by Ace Espinosa, Roi Vinzon and Jess Lapid Jr., with Sharmaine Santiago and child star Kathleen Cruz.

For the first time, Gov. Lito Lapid uses his real name in the credits as the film's director.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON. Mark Lapid aims for action stardom in "Dugong Aso," with his dad, Lito, as director.

RIVERMAYA RELEASES FIRST STUDIO ALBUM

Set to capture shortly the hearts of listeners across the country is the much-awaited album from Rivermaya, one of the most imaginative artists in the country today. "Tuloy ang Ligaya," the band's first studio album under Viva Entertainment Group, is now released nationwide. It will be the latest chapter in the saga that first began for the band nearly five years ago with the release of its self-titled album.

Rivermaya debuted with the fresh-sounding tune, "Ulan." The band now returns with "Umaaraw, Umuulan," the bitter-sweet carrier single of their latest album. The song deftly paints a picture of love lost, hopes dashed, plans swept away—and how courage and determination can help you to go on to another, brighter tomorrow.

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Going with the shallow flow

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN the past, ABS-CBN has given news, public affairs and magazine shows mostly to its established talents like **Noli de Castro, Korina Sanchez** and **Ces Orena Drilon**. As for its younger reporters, they have had to wait in the wings, biding their time and honing their skills in preparation for their big breaks.

This year, those breaks have started coming, most significantly for **Pia Hontiveros**, who has come on strong in "Strictly Politics," where she has held her ground against some of the biggest bullies on the Philippine political scene.

Last week, two more programs were launched as showcases for other younger news and public affairs talents in ABS-CBN's stable. The first, "Kakasa Ka Ba?," is hosted by **Connie Sison** and **JV Villar**.

SISON

Both hosts have cut their teeth in relatively minor roles on several programs. If memory serves, we've seen Connie on shows like "Hoy Gising." At first, she looked rather raw and soft, like she didn't have it in her to be as steadfast and even tough as TV news beats are thought to require.

In time, however, she's become as brassy as the rest of them, so she cohosts her new show with spunk and authority.

We feel, though, that her "transformation" has made her a clone of the other tough gals at ABS-CBN, who are too relentlessly and uniformly brassy, and who have to learn that they can be competent without being curt.

True, "Kakasa" gives Sison a less structured showcase, because it has her and cohost Villar going here, there and everywhere in search of "gutsy" experience.

On the show's first telecast, these included Sison learning how to fire a gun at a shooting range and Villar being taught "interesting" hand signals by a traffic enforcer, a portion that didn't get anywhere much because the enforcer wasn't very forthcoming.

Villar has gotten a lot of solid training as a reporter on the TV news beat, but his first cohosting assignment, on a show about weird topics, characters and occurrences, didn't really showcase him at his best.

"Kakasa" is better, but it's still not the kind of show he needs to emerge as a news and public affairs person as competent and respected as Hontiveros.

Perhaps the problem is the fact that Villar is goodlooking, so ABS-CBN wants to build him up as a popular news person, with a fan following. That's may be why he keeps getting stuck in shows with rather shallow formats.

If Villar wants to be competent rather than cute, he should eschew the channel's "popular" plans for him and try to get to host a more sober-minded and challenging show.

Of course, if he wants to become as giddily popular as his shows appear to intend, he'll just have to go with their shallow flow—and get ribbed and knocked on his merry way to TV superstardom.

Feedback

FROM **Lauro J. Jocson** of Muntinlupa City: "With your extensive knowledge of movies and television, you might have the answer to my question:

"There has been so much talk about the Star channels pulling out from SkyCable and Home Cable. My query, however, does not have anything to do with Star. It is about the loss of the channel that used to show old classical movies.

"There used to be TNT, later changed to Turner Classic Movies (TCM) which featured classical movies from the past. It was shown starting at 9 p.m. everyday.

"There would be three or four movies which followed Cartoon Network. It was through this channel that I saw good movies like 'Casablanca,' 'Gone with the Wind,' 'Sergeant York,' 'The Maltese Falcon,' and many more.

"A few months ago, the channel disappeared on cable TV. No reason was given. Could you find out why TCM has stopped telecasting? When I was in the States recently, I found out that there are channels abroad that continue to show old classical movies. I believe there are many people who want to see these films, and wonder if we will ever get to see them here."

NUT's note: Pending the return of TCM to our TV screens, you can get to view some good movies from the '50s, '60s and '70s on Cinemax, HBO, the Hallmark Channel, etc. For instance, Cinemax is showing **Charlie Chaplin**'s "A Countess from Hong Kong" (with **Marlon Brando** and **Sophia Loren**) on Nov. 19 at 6 a.m.

In the Philippines, film buffs really have to be resourceful in looking for good, old movies that would otherwise be overlooked . . .

'Startalk' marks sixth anniversary

THE TRIUMVIRATE of Rosanna Roces, Butch Francisco and Lolit Solis gives their loyal viewers another big reason to stay glued to the tube this Saturday afternoon, as "Startalk" celebrates six years as everyone's favorite show biz talk show.

"Startalk" continues to make waves and will kick off their seventh year with a blast in its 6th anniversary special, 2:30 p.m. tomorrow after "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

The show will present glimpses of all the stories, scandals and exposés that made "Startalk" the talk of the town many times over these past six years.

Robin Padilla and Sharon Cuneta, stars of Viva Films' "Pagdating ng Panahon," lead the roster of guests willing and daring enough to bare all in this must-see special.

Robinsons opens Movieworld branch

RESIDENTS of Eastern Metro Manila or from the major cities of Pasig, Antipolo, Cainta and Marikina need not go through the crawling traffic going to Cubao and Ortigas or even Makati to watch in a world-class cinema.

Robinsons Metro East Pasig is now open. The newest branch boasts of digital and state-of-the-art sound and film presentation equipment which will cater not only to the discriminating taste of Movieworld regular goers, but the newest crop of Robinsons Metro East shoppers.

The opening of the 6th Cineplex branch of Movieworld is anticipated by Robinsons Metro East mall's growing number of regular patrons, mostly residents of nearby subdivisions.

Movieworld general manager Leo Hernandez announces that Movieworld will open more cinemas in San Fernando and Iloilo befor the year ends.

Former LRP Foundation's Louie's THX Cinema general manager Janet Deriada has just joined the Robinson's Movieworld group to head its marketing department.

Deriada, who was recently appointed director for marketing, brings with her to Movieworld her expertise in the film industry business and her knowledge in advertising and promotions and media management.

Weekend gimmicks

ANOTHER weekend is just a few winks away and while you're planning your gimmick itinerary, check out the hubs that the Mild Seven Bar tour team will invade to get a load of their cool tasting smokes and practical give-aways.

Tonight, the payday weekend party fever takes the Mild Seven models to Malate as they drop by Java Hut, Timbuktu, Jazz Rhythms, Bravo, Bedrock, Padi's Point, Mint, Nth Degree, Indiana Café, City Square and Larry's Bar.

Mild Seven extends the fun till Saturday, Nov. 17, when they tour the hottest places in Makati like Cable Car Pasay Road, Padi's Point in Pasay Road, Mile Long and Jupiter, Hutu's Hut, Grilla, Buma and WhistleStop.

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4	THE ONE
5	SERENDIPITY
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	JEEPERS CREEPERS
9	WEYT A MINIT
10	TRIP
11	ANO BANG MERON KA?
12	LEGALLY BLONDE

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP
4	WEYT A MINIT

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	TRIP
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	JOY RIDE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	THE ONE
9	BUBBLE BOY
10	LEGALLY BLONDE
11	DOS EKIS
12	JEEPERS CREEPERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	BUBBLE BOY
2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4	WEYT A MINIT
5	KING OF GLADIATORS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
9	THE ONE
10	JOY RIDE

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820085

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP

SM CEBU
2313816

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	THE BODY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	TRAINING DAY

SM ILOILO
3208422

1	THE BODY
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	TRIP
6	TRAINING DAY
7	CLOSED
8	HIYAS

SM PAMPANGA
7128915

1	THE ONE
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	TRIP
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	WEYT A MINIT

SM SUCAT
8294915

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?

SM DAVAO

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
3	
4	
5	
6	

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GLORIETTA 1
formerly QUAD

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEYT A MINIT KAPENG MAINIT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRIP	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE ONE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	KING OF GLADIATOR	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SERENDIPITY	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 18 - 3 PM	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SERENDIPITY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JOY RIDE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE ONE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	KING OF GLADIATOR
2 (SDDS)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 GOLD (DTS)	JOY RIDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	JOY RIDE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	TRIP

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
5	KING OF GLADIATORS

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	TRIP
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	JOY RIDE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	TRIP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
, tel 930.9515

1	
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
A	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TRIP
5	BUBBLE BOY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8 (SDDS)	THE ONE
9 (DOLBY)	JOY RIDE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	TRIP
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4 (SDDS)	JOY RIDE
5	WEYT A MINIT
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	SERENDIPITY
9	DOS EKIS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE
6	WEYT A MINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
8	TRIP

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANO BANG MERON KA ?
Lords	MEDUSA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	JOY RIDE
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TRIP
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	TRIP

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5	THE ONE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DOS EKIS
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	AMERICAN PIE 2

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	TRIP
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	TRAINING DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

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1 THX	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	JOY RIDE
3	KING OF GLADIATORS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	THE ONE
7	BUBBLE BOY
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	JEEPERS CREEPERS
10	TRIP

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S

NOVALICHES
935-3228 TO 31

1	JOY RIDE
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	SERENDIPITY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	TRIP

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	TRIP
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	JOY RIDE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	MR. NICE GUY
5	EXTREME FORCE
6	TRIP

METRO EAST
632-9116-16 /633-7641loc. 279

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	BUBBLE BOY
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	JOY RIDE
5	JOY RIDE
6	SERENDIPITY
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WEYT A MINIT
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-6	SERENDIPITY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Joey premieres 'Harry Potter'

IT'S ANOTHER bustling month for Joey@92.3 FM this month, with pre-Christmas treats for everyone.

After the premiere of "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" last Nov. 12, Joey's movie treat continues with its big screen premiere of Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone," 7:30 tomorrow night, Nov. 17, at Glorietta IV Cinema 6.

The event, presented with MTV, will be highlighted by Joey's own wizardry, a Hogwarts-like cinema, a magician to entertain guests and cocktails, plus enchanting games and prizes.

Prepare to meet the endearing characters of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with Harry, Ron and Hermione in this blockbuster adaptation of J.K. Rowling's best-selling book.

After that dash of love and magic, Joey premieres the action and suspense-filled "The Score," starring Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro and Ed Norton, Nov. 26 at the Glorietta IV Cinema 6, 7:30 p.m.

The event is presented by Cali, GBX Shoes, Nautica Latitude-Longitude Fragrance and Globe, with BPI, Duty Free Philippines and Zagu.

It is also supported by First Life Assurance, Guarantee, BPI Housing Loan, Mitsubishi, Astring-o-Sol Concentrated, Sony Cellular Phones and Metro Magazine.

The month will not be complete without the great rhythms that Joey is known for.

Retro rhythms were played in fever-pitch in the successful "Joey's Blazing Nights @ Dish," last Nov. 6.

On Nov. 27, the colorful era of the '60s again takes centerstage with a second helping of the event at the same venue.

Prepare to groove the night away with cult favorite Spirit of '67. The event is supported by Petron Blaze and by Marlboro, Aegon Life Insurance, Smart, Mitsubishi and BPI Express Payment.

Joey then brings the rhythms to Haagen Dazs Cafés with "Steam and Chill." Watch out for the acoustic duo of Nobel Queano and Rodel Vidal and percussionist Louie Boogie, as they deliver soothing harmonies at Haagen Dazs Glorietta (Nov. 16 and 30) and Shangri-La Mall (Nov. 23).

The event is presented by Esprit Scents and Senses and co-presented by Emerald Headway.

On Nov. 21 and 28, and Dec. 4 and 11, "Joey's Night Rhythms" invades the newly renovated Streetlife in Glorietta. Featured performers are Calvin Millado, Bituin Escalante and Acoustic Jive, who will raze the stage for a mean doze of top hits.

The event is presented by Esprit Scents and Senses, Master Card, GM Venture and also by Jufran, GBX Shoes and PSBank.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Can't wait to see 'Harry Potter' movie

REMEMBER when as a kid you'd be so eager for your birthday to arrive and just to lessen your *pangungulit,* your mom would say, just count five *tulog na lang* and the day would finally be here?

That's exactly how excited I feel about Nov. 21, when "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will be shown in Metro Manila theaters.

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I've seen the full trailer, and I've devoured the Premiere, Entertainment Weekly and Vanity fair features about the making of the film.

Time and Newsweek have also reviewed the finished product, and they've said the film stays true to the book and the attention to detail is very impressive and should please all the die-hard fans of the book. *Hay naku, sana* Wednesday *na!*

* * *

The concert scene is really alive these days. So many artists have mounted shows at the Araneta Coliseum in recent months. On Dec. 1, it's **Ai-Ai de las Alas**' turn.

I've gotten the chance to get to know Ai-Ai better because my former program "Kris and Tell" used to tape on Tuesdays, the same day that "Arriba Arriba" would tape. Our dressing rooms were very near each other and in between takes we'd end up chatting and laughing uproariously.

It seems our taping schedules are meant to coincide. On Fridays, I tape for "Game KNB" and Ai-Ai tapes for "Wattamen."

Last week, she hung out in our set and she was so entertaining, keeping us all in stitches with her naughty comments. She personally invited me to her birthday.

When we got home, we ended up bonding with my mom while watching the Miss Asia Pacific Quest, while I waited for midnight to arrive when I had to go to ABS-CBN for my "Buzz" voiceovers.

The first text I received the next day came from Ai-Ai. She said, "Friend, *bumili pa naman ako ng lechon. Di ka naman sumipot.*"

I was so guilt. Luckily the birthday girl was in a forgiving mood and we made plans to have a late dinner Monday night with **Pops (Fernandez).**

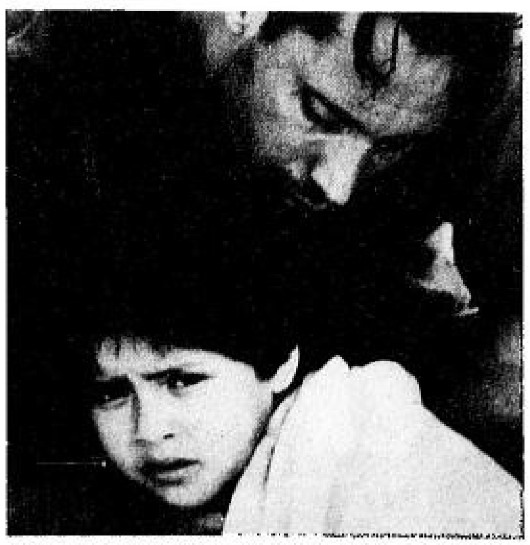
During dinner, the two started discussing the number they'd be performing in Ai-Ai's Dec. 1 concert. It's going to be a musical showdown featuring songs from all-girl groups ranging from the Pointer Sisters to the Bangles to the Spice Girls.

Maxie Cinco, who will design and execute their outfits, joined our dinner and I was intrigued with the planning that went into concert costumes. Not only do they have to be attractive on stage, they also have to allow the performers maximum mobility, and they have to have velcro closures and connections so that the outfits can be peeled away piece by piece to ultimately reveal a skimpy finale outfit.

Pops was telling us about her new fitness routine. She now has a personal trainer who has her do on alternate days boxing and weight training. She has been at it for just a few weeks but her shoulders, arms and abdominal area already appear tighter and sleeker.

Pops said that all her muscles would be crying out because the boxing workout was broken down into three-minute intervals of punching the bag. Initially jabbing would be powerful, but after the first minute of non-stop punching, Pops said that it really took enormous will power to keep your arms up and at it.

I'm going on my 6th week of twice-weekly tennis lessons, supplemented with brisk treadmill walking. I've been disciplined and the regular exercise has made me more energetic. Here's to the benefits of a healthier lifestyle!



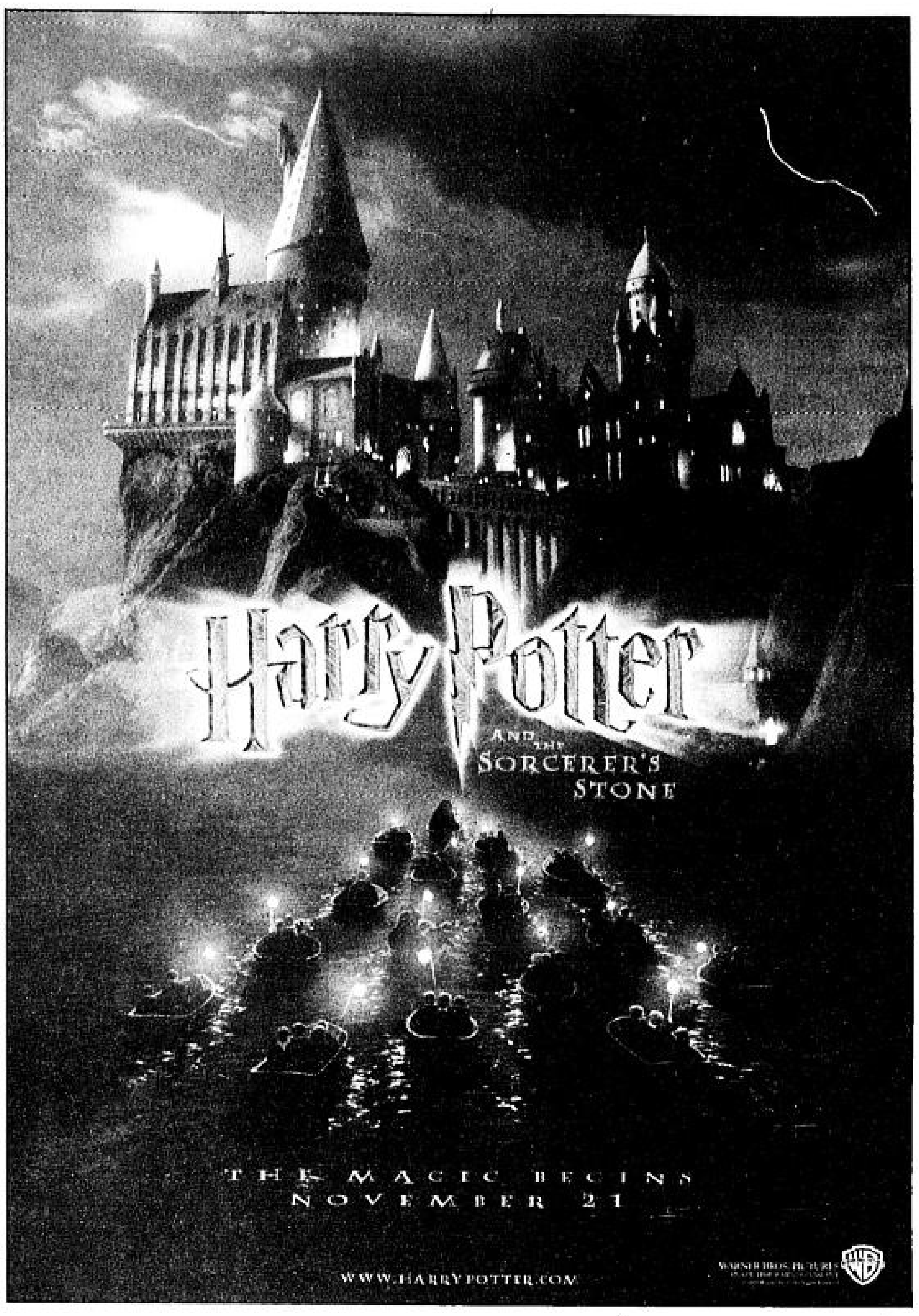
'NO TURNING BACK'

The dramatic American film, "No Turning Back," directed by Jesus Nebot (of "NYPD Blue" fame) and Julia Montejo, is one of the promising entries in the 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival, Dec. 7 to 16 at Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas in Makati. The film tells the tragic story of an illegal migrant from Honduras, with a five-year-old daughter who witnesses his American dream turn into a nightmare.

Due to unforeseen events, TMV Films, International would like to apologize to the PCG-PMAAA CHAPTER FOUNDATION INCORPORATED for the cancellation of the advance screening of "Shanghai Lily."

However, ticket holders are strongly encouraged to be at the SM Megamall Cinema 10 on November 17, 2001 at 7:30 p.m for the special advance screening of "TAXI" and a bonus surprise screening.

TMV Films, International
Tel Nos. 241-1041 / 241-6747


Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
THE MAGIC BEGINS
NOVEMBER 21
WWW.HARRYPOTTER.COM

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JOY RIDE - P 13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	SERENDIPITY - P 13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10, 11:10	CAPT. CORRELLI'S - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
THE ONE - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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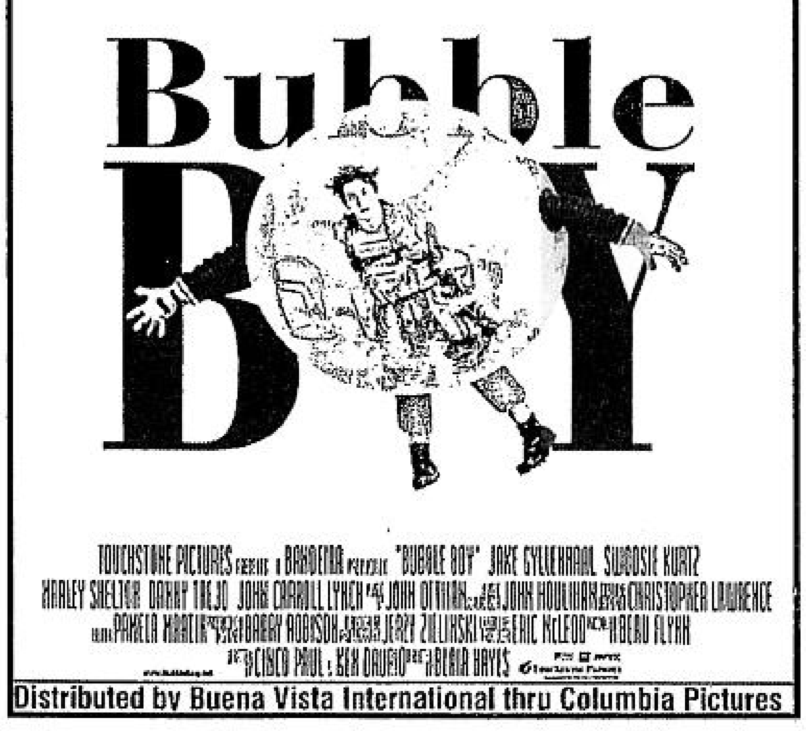
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.


Bubble Boy
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS A BARDEMAR PRODUCTION "BUBBLE BOY" JAKE GYLLENHAAL SWOOSIE KURTZ
MARLEY SHELTON DANNY TREJO JOHN CARROLL LYNCH JOHN OTTMAN JOHN HOULIHAN CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE
PAMELA MARTIN BARRY ROBISON JERZY ZIELINSKI ERIC McLEOD BEAU FLYNN
CINCO PAUL & KEN DAURIO BLAIR HAYES

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
'pag si MANOY at LONG pinagsama, gugulong ka sa pagtawa!!!

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klaudia koronel
eddie garcia
long mejia
KAPITAN AMBO
DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
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From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

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The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

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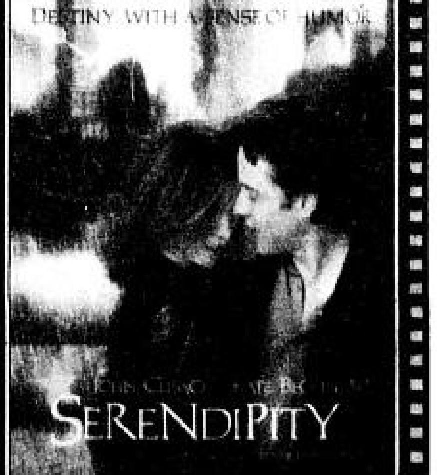
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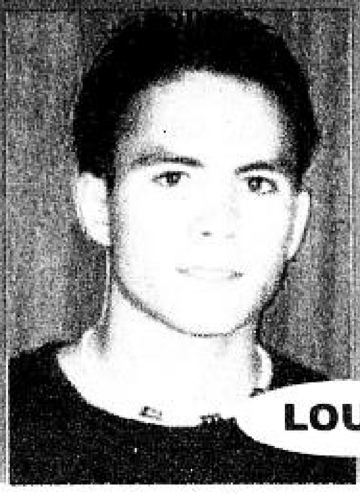
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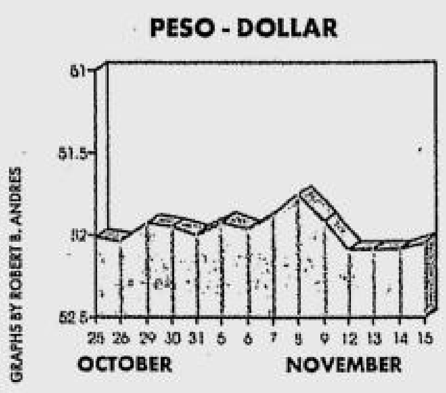

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BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

DESPITE the weak economic environment, retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM group is investing P2.5 billion to P3 billion annually over the next three years to expand the country's biggest shopping mall empire.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. executive vice president Teresita Sy-Coson yesterday told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Business Conference that the group would continue with the strategy of building at least two new malls each year and expanding its landbanking activities.

"The market is not going to look good for at least two more years. That's our perception, but that may change. Even in the toughest conditions, we have to do our work. Otherwise, our growth will be stunned. So we'll continue the same formula for about two to three years," Sy-Coson said.

"From now until 2004, perhaps we'll have about eight more malls," Sy-Coson said.

She explained that each of these malls would cost about P1 billion each year while the group's annual budget for additional landbanking stood at P500 million to P1 billion, thus bringing to P2.5-P3 billion the capital outlays needed each year over the medium-term.

For next year, the taipan's daughter said SM's new malls in Bicutan and Cagayan de Oro were scheduled to start operations.

The SM chain now has 12 malls all over the country, the newest of which is SM City-Davao, which will open today. Even as the market for its biggest malls in Metro Manila—Megamall and SM City in Quezon City—has matured, the group started opening smaller malls inside and outside the national capital region to capture new markets.

SMPH also has an existing landbank of 164 hectares in 15 strategic locations all over the country.

Although SM has identified the areas where new malls would be put up like Baguio City, Sy-Coson said the pace of building, and opening the new malls would depend on the eco-

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, November 15, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	45	44	45	53,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17	17.25	17	17.25	367,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	162	165	161	163	145,140
Philippine National Bank	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	395,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.25	17	16.25	17	20,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	16	16	6,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1380	1365	1380	1,610
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1115	1100	1110	5,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	9,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.3	3,590,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	570	560	570	84,510
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	3.3	2.95	3	60,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	430,000
Phil. Long Dis.Tel Co.	387.5	395	387.5	392.5	113,070
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	57,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	22	20.25	21.5	441,100
Manila Electric Co. B	25	26	24.5	25.5	1,604,600
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.14	1.06	1.12	8,533,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.34	3,886,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	5,080,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	133,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.04	2.04	48,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	55,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	175,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	2,400
RFM Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.92	720,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	79,000
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	51	51	102,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	68,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.31	0.35	0.31	0.34	210,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.3	21,143,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	3,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.49	110,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	189,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	510,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.51	3,720,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	2,500,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.5	22.25	21	22	1,702,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	700,000
Ionics Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	48,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.48	1.3	1.44	454,000
Medco Holdings	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.57	0.59	1,880,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.26	0.195	0.25	19,950,000
Music Corporation	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	1,630,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.19	0.2	1,460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	6,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	110,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	65,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	39,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.4	4.5	4,867,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	900,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.21	0.195	0.205	9,030,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.14	16,137,000
City & Land Developers	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	14,139,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.018	13,800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	270,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.15	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	31,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	21,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,035,450	103,021,860.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	180,098,180	315,914,230.00
PRO	45,893,000	117,820,880.00
Mining	50,190,000	400,100.00
OIL	22,520,000	79,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	299,736,630	537,236,170.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	399.22	UP 6.12
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,440.44	UP 22.83
PRO	436.85	UP 10.07
Mining	945.46	UP 9.55
OIL	1.17	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	671.94	UP 11.44
Composite	1,015.86	UP 18.34

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- C.M. Recto
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- Lagro
- Novaliches
- Shorthorn
- Banawe
- Cubao
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A&A Convinience Store (Katipunan Ave.)
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SM North
· Electoworld
· ULB Int'l.
· Memo Express
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CD Romania (FBR Bldg.,Katipunan)
Interchange Trading Inc. (Bentez St., Cubao)
10Q Convience Store
· Sta. Quiteria
· Sangandaan
Tropical Hut Foodmart (Panay Ave.)
Plaza Fair (Cubao)
Expression Stationary (Tandang Sora)

RIZAL:
PTT (Ortigas Ext.)
I-MART
· Pinatubo
· Cainta
· Montalban
· San Mateo
· Taytay
- Antipolo Church
- Imperial, Antipolo
Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
· Memo Express
· CD Square
Merriam Webster (Antipolo)
Jell Trading (Cainta)
Tropical Hut Dept. Store (Q Plaza)
Mall N' More (Tropical Hut, Taytay)
Prepaid Connection (Cainta)
Line of Sight (Bridgeway Sta Lucia)
TCA (Grand Mall Sta. Lucia East)
PASIG:
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· Caruncho
· Rosario
SEAOIL (Bagong Ilog)
Kameraworld (West Tektite Tower)
Famous Dry Cleaner (Cherry Food-A-Rama)
Sure Pick Telecoms (Starmall)
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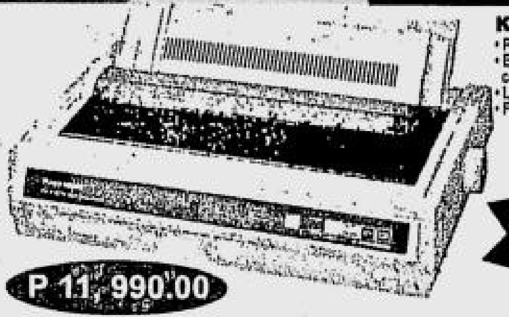

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Shares rise 1.8% on Wall St. gains

SHARES ended higher yesterday, buoyed by positive developments in Afghanistan and Wall Street's overnight gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index managed to end above its 1000-point psychological resistance to finish 18.34 points, or 1.8 percent, higher at 1015.86. The index rose 0.8 percent on Wednesday.

The resilience displayed by third-quarter earnings of several blue chip companies also boosted demand for select stocks in the market, traders said.

"There seems to be a slow return to equities," said A&A Securities analyst Don Malabanan. "Developments in Afghanistan and Wall Street helped, but most people were also reacting to the earnings reports of some companies."

Malabanan said most analysts, who were expecting third-quarter corporate earnings to drop considerably, have noted the resilience of some firms.

Traders said one such company was JG Summit. The stock ended up 16 centavos, or 13 percent, at P1.44 after the conglomerate posted net profit growth of 42 percent in the nine months to September.

The 0.8-percent rise of the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the 0.6-percent gain of the Nasdaq Composite Index Wednesday also inspired demand for select issues, traders said.

PLDT rose P10, or 2.6 percent, to P392.50, in step with the 1.8-percent gain of PLDT's American Depositary Receipts in New York Wednesday.

Malabanan said it was too early to tell whether yesterday's rally could be sustained.

"It's likely we can see some follow through buying tomorrow," he said. "Whether or not we can close this week with more gains is still a big question."

Traders said investors await more developments in Afghanistan and the Philippine government's next move in addressing the growing domestic peace and order problems. *AP*

CURRENCIES

Nov. 15, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132246	1.000000	52.1410
Japan	Yen	0.009313	0.008225	0.4289
United Kingdom	Pound	1.632586	1.441900	75.1821
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145171	0.128215	6.6853
Switzerland	Franc	0.680641	0.601142	31.3441
Canada	Dollar	0.711389	0.628299	32.7601
Singapore	Dollar	0.620750	0.548246	28.5861
Australia	Dollar	0.588486	0.519751	27.1003
Bahrain	Dinar	3.003466	2.652661	138.3124
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301941	0.266674	13.9046
Brunei	Dollar	0.618545	0.546299	28.4846
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000094	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025513	0.022533	1.1749
UAE	Dirham	0.308346	0.272331	14.1996
Korea	Won	0.000889	0.000785	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.883200	46.0509
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.451573	23.5455
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134643	7.0204
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.400779	20.8970
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064185	3.3467
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021894	1.1416
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000456	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148544	7.7452
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004405	0.2297
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005308	0.2768
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021894	1.1416
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.121433	58.4726

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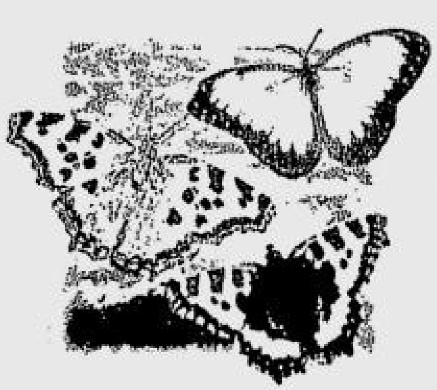

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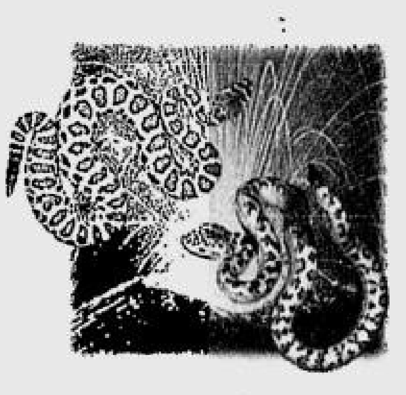

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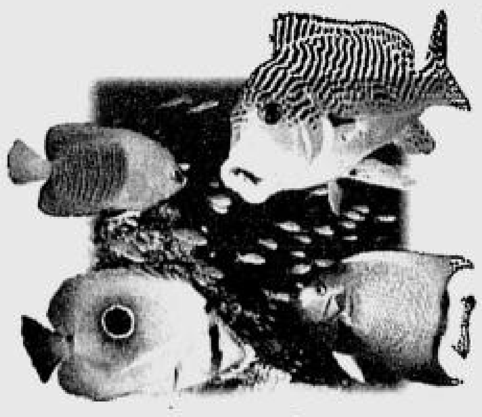

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PSE approves IPO of chemical firm, thrift bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the application of two local firms—Federal Chemicals Inc. and Citystate Savings Bank Inc.—to conduct an initial public offering within the next two months.

The PSE yesterday announced that the tentative listing date for FedChem would be on Dec. 21 while Citystate's would be on Jan. 3. Both will debut on the PSE's second board, which is devoted to companies with a minimum authorized capital of P100 million, of which P25 million must be subscribed and paid up.

At the same time, PSE head of listings Tina Panganiban said the exchange has received a new IPO application from Cebu-based thermal power plant Salcon Power Corp., a joint venture between Salcon Philippines Inc., Shanghai Nanshi Power Plant and ATC Engineering Sdn. Bhd,

After the approval of FedChem and Citystate's IPOs, still pending with the PSE are the applications filed by pawnshop chain TFS Inc. and property firm Jolliville Holdings Inc.

In a statement yesterday, the PSE said FedChem would offer 12.5 million common shares or 33.35 percent of its total post-IPO shares at P6.70-P7.50 per share. Final offer price will be set on Nov. 23.

Established in 1993, FedChem is engaged in the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of sealants, adhesives and ancillary products. Its popular products include Fedseal Elastomeric Sealant, Surebond and Bond contact cement bonds.

Net proceeds from the offering, which can reach up to P93.75 million, will be used mainly as additional working capital and for the partial retirement of debt.

FedChem's offer period has been set between Dec. 3 and 10 this year, making it only the third company to brave the stock market this year after property company Primex Corp. which debuted on the first board, and SQL Wizard, which inaugurated the PSE's third or small-and-medium enterprise board.

FedChem's underwriter and issue manager will be RCBC Capital Corp. It will have a post-IPO market capitalization of P251 million to P281 million.

BSP leaves rates unchanged

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making Monetary Board decided yesterday to leave overnight interest rates unchanged, saying it would allow last week's 50 basis point cut to work its way through the system.

"The board noted that there have been no significant developments since last week to warrant another change in interest rates," deputy governor Amando Tetangco said in a statement after the board's regular weekly meeting.

Last week, the Bangko Sentral announced a half-percentage point cut in overnight rates to match the latest easing by the US Federal Reserve and said more reductions were likely before the year ends.

Monetary authorities have been concerned that aggressive rate cuts could harm the peso currency and, in response to US reductions of 1.5 percentage points since Sept. 11, has reduced its own rates by only 75 basis points in the same period.

The Bangko Sentral's rates are now at a four-year low and are at 8.25 percent for overnight borrowing and 10.5 percent for overnight lending.

Local monetary authorities are not shutting the doors to the possibility of further easing policy rates this year particularly if the US Federal Reserve would cut its short-term rates from 2 percent and if local inflation would continue to decline.

"A rate cut is still possible given that the Fed may still cut in December. We would take any US cut into consideration," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an earlier interview.

Buenaventura, who chairs the Monetary Board, left for the United States to join the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who is also with the Macapagal delegation, said that with lower central bank rates, the government's benchmark borrowing rate would also stay at single-digit levels.

"We intend to keep the 91-day treasury bill rate at a single-digit level and the current benchmark rate may still go down," the finance chief said.

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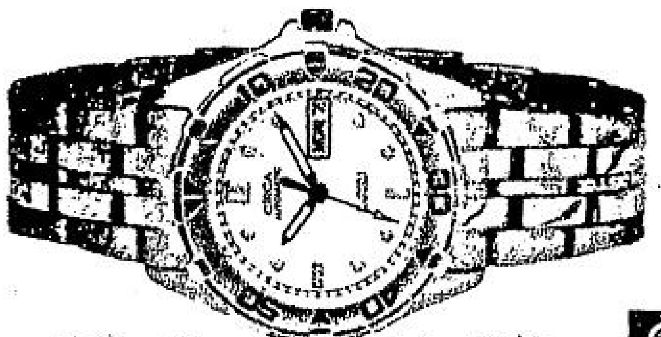
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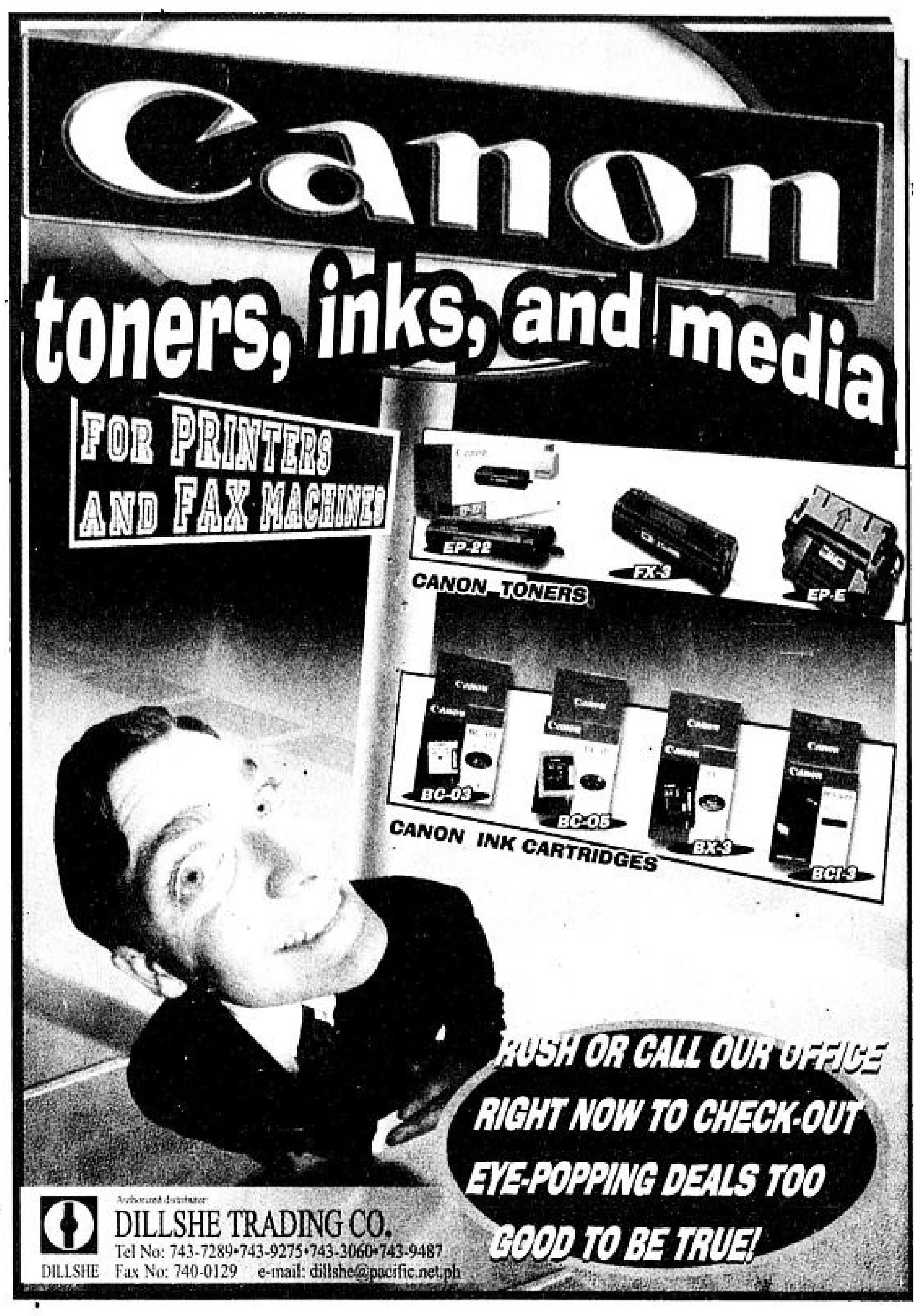
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Poor countries gain ground in drafting of WTO program

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday said the Philippines and other developing countries gained considerable ground in the drafting of the new work program for the World Trade Organization which would address health problems, eliminate farm subsidies of developed countries and break down other barriers to trade.

Roxas said that the developing countries were united in their position in the WTO negotiation in contrast to the divergent stand of developed countries on a number of issues discussed in the Doha, Qatar meeting.

"We stood our ground, we didn't flinch. We are gratified that the closing declaration points out that international trade can play a major role not only in the promotion of economic development but more importantly the alleviation of poverty," Roxas said.

The developing countries were able to successfully push for a broad and balanced work program including a clear mandate and timetable for a new round of global trade negotiations.

In the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Roxas noted that members have broadened allowable cases to justify the liberal trade of patented drugs for pandemics such as AIDS to include tuberculosis and malaria epidemics and for national emergencies. Developing countries have strongly pushed for this measure.

The Doha declaration on TRIPS agreement and public health granted each member the right to grant compulsory licenses and to determine what constitutes a national emergency.

Roxas said this flexibility has far reaching implications on lowering the cost of manufacturing and importing medicine needed in the developing world to fight public health emergencies. This will, for instance, allow the country to continue importation of cheaper drugs from India.

In agriculture, Roxas said the WTO trade ministers committed to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvements in market access and reductions of, with a view of phasing out, all forms of export subsidies. They also committed to negotiate for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.

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Do you still trust the SSS?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

AFTER all the billions of pesos lost by the SSS, can you, 24 million SSS employee-members and 624,000 employers out there still trust the System? Do you still entertain some hopes that the SSS can recover the lost confidence among employees and employers alike? Do you still believe in the SSS? Good for you, I don't.

I don't trust the SSS anymore because my trust has been repeatedly violated, perhaps not with impunity, but I never heard the SSS PR boys accepting their monumental debacles, much less apologize to the millions of workers whose monthly contributions keep the SSS going. There is arrogance even in the midst of its multiple fiasco. If these were in Japan, all the SSS executives would tender their resignations "en masse" or commit "hara kiri" before the millions of SSS members. A change of the top man is not enough. The SSS should be abolished and a new one formed, managed by us, SSS members.

Colossal betrayals

For countless of times, the SSS betrayed my trust and the trust of both labor and capital whose regular dues constitute the lifeblood of the System. The Senate and Congress investigate all sorts of inanities. But they close their eyes to this monstrosity. I don't trust 'em either.

The SSS breached the trust I reposed on it when it went into a buying spree of corporate stocks amounting to P46 billion within only a period of 31 months under the Estrada administration. Antonio Lopez of Philippine Graphics wrote that the SSS would be lucky today, if it gets back 25 percent of such a massive stock investment. Therefore, how can I trust a System that gambled and lost P34.5 billion in 31 months? The System that I used to trust threw away more than P1 billion a month of the workers' money.

I don't care if, as Arellano testified, it was upon Malacañang's behest. What is important to me is that we were deprived of such huge amount of money at a time when people are suffering of massive poverty. And no one cares to explain to the SSS members why and how could such losses be recovered. The trustees should be prosecuted.

Multiple violations of trust

I lost my trust on the SSS because, without informing the millions of its contributors, much less obtain their consent, it is said to have bought P10.7 billion worth of PLDT stocks. Lopez claims that today, those shares of stocks are worth only 60 percent of their purchase price or merely P4.3 billion. Therefore, the SSS again threw away P6.4 billion of the contributors' money.

I lost my trust on the SSS when, without the members' knowledge, much less consent, it reportedly purchased blocks of Union Bank shares for P3.4 billion. Today, Lopez says, those stocks are worth only a mere P2 billion. Again, by the SSS' lack of prudence or lack of skills, we, the SSS members, have lost P1.4 billion just like that.

More breaches of confidence

I lost my trust on the SSS when, without consulting its members who, after all, actually own the SSS funds, the System was reported to have acquired P3.9 billion worth of Meralco stocks, which today, Lopez claims, are only worth P1.1 billion, representing a whopping 72-percent capital loss. How can the members trust a System that practically gambled away P2.8 billion of the workers' blood money just like that.

In collaboration with another white elephant, the giant GSIS, the SSS reportedly bought P15 billion worth of shares of PCI-Equitable at P80 per share. Lopez estimates that each of the bank's share today is only worth P16, or a devastating loss of 80 percent. Therefore, P12 billion of the workers' money were again lost just like that.

Multibillion-peso losses

If you combine the P6.4-billion losses in the PLDT transaction, with the P1.4 billion in the Union Bank deal, P2.8 billion in Meralco plus the P12 billion in the PCI Equitable transaction, clearly, the SSS members suffered a tremendous blow of a debilitating P22.6 billion in losses in only 31 months.

The total investments in PLDT,

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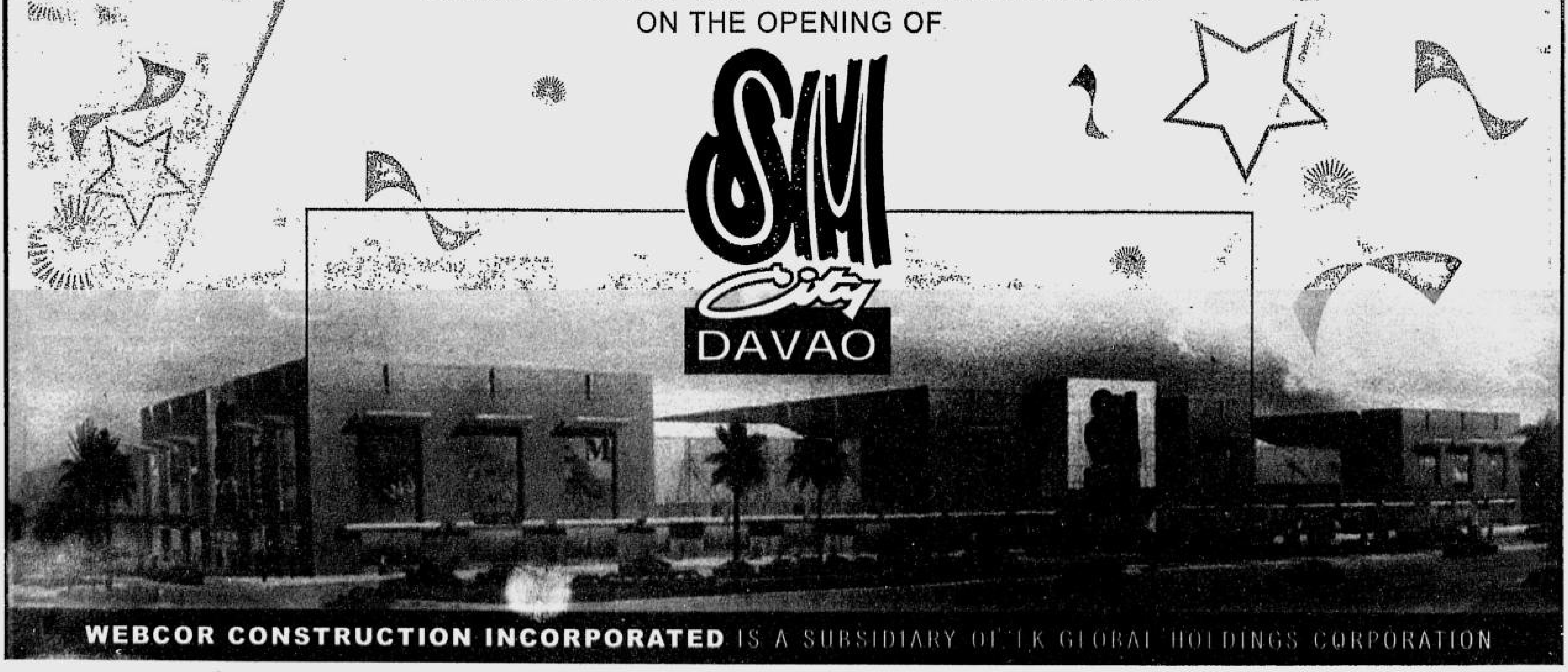

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Inquirer's tabloids

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

THE INQUIRER is finally going tabloid, and doing so in a big way.

This paper, which critics and competitors say is nothing but a tabloid masquerading as a broadsheet, is launching not one but three tabloids, all in a span of one week.

Last Monday, the INQUIRER took editorial control and publication of Bandera and Tumbok, two popular sex-and-crime sheets previously published by taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Despite being *tabos* (industry argot for "moneymakers"), the two tabloids were spun off by Gokongwei daughter Lisa, who wanted to limit the family's publishing stable to the so-called glossies.

Bandera and Tumbok are actually now controlled by another outfit, INQUIRER Publications Inc., wherein the INQUIRER has 30-percent equity. The majority of INQUIRER Publications, according to the office grapevine, is held by the same families that, in turn, control the INQUIRER.

This coming Monday, INQUIRER the broadsheet is launching its 100-percent owned tabloid, INQUIRER Libre, so-called because it will be distributed free.

With an initial and guaranteed circulation of 100,000 and a minimum of 12 pages, Libre will be handed out Mondays to Fridays to the morning commuters of the LRT and MetroTren.

Libre will hopefully make money on advertising, in the same manner that the weekly Makati Village Voice and the various free Pinoy publications in the United States do. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., we understand, is one of the early birds, having blocked off advertising spots all the way until year's end.

Like an expectant mother, INQUIRER editor in chief Leticia Jimenez-Magsanoc is quite excited about Libre, which is patterned among the free and highly successful tabloids of London and Singapore.

She was constantly hovering over the shoulders of Libre editor Abelardo Ulanday to ensure the tabloid's mock-up design and the paper's feel-good content, mainly how-to's and advice stories for the C and D classes.

As to the other two tabloids, the office grapevine claims that the Assumption Convent-sensibilities of the *señoras* have been unsettled upon reading such graphic headlines as *"Keps ng Dalagita, Pinaluwag ng Ama"* and *"Nota Itinutok, Ama Tinusok"* (ask your friendly barber or your driver for the translation) in this week's editions.

The office joke is that, considering the quite revealing photos on page 1 (to be fair, not as eye-popping and as prominent as the cheesecake photos on British and American supermarket tabs), one tabloid should instead be renamed Tambok.

Dressed down for dressing down

SOCIALITE-PAINTER Marivic Rufino, who just opened another smash hit solo show at The Pen, is on a warpath these days over an "antiquated" Manila Golf Club dress-code ruling.

Rufino was recently refused service by a waiter for wearing a spaghetti-strapped top, a no-no to the club's long-standing T-shirt-with-collars rule.

Not even the intercession of her husband, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who was with her at the club verandah, could budge the headstrong waiter, said to be the head of the MGC labor union.

To placate the Buenaventuras—the hubby even wrote a two-page protest letter to the club management—club president Rodolfo Cuenca transferred the waiter to the club's Siberia, in addition to promising a review of the dress code.

Club members Chito Recto and Arthur Young are said to be egging Cuenca for the relaxation, in part because Recto himself suffered the same fate when he appeared in a collarless T-shirt, and Young, when he attempted to walk around the club house in rubber slippers.

But banker Edward Go has urged Cuenca to remain steadfast—"rules are rules," Go said—unless the general membership themselves vote for the relaxation.

In the meantime, Cuenca, a former Marcos crony who has imposed his own brand of martial law among the club employees with his no-strike rule, will consult with Macario Te, the *kabisi* of the influential Chinoy bloc, prior to making any decision.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MANAGEMENT of the Metro Pacific Corp., led by president Ricardo Pascua and possibly, with chair Manuel V. Pangilinan included, has offered to buy out the debt-saddled Fort Bonifacio venture from the parent company, First Pacific of Hong Kong.

This puts the Metro Pacific management group in direct competition with the group put together by another Fort Bonifacio director, Carlos Rufino, who has partnered with Ayala Land and a US venture fund represented by investment banker Aloysius Colayco.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Singapore airline offering to bring tourists to Manila

By Abigail L. Ho

SINGAPORE Airlines has launched a series of affordable Philippine tour packages to help convince tourists to come to the country.

The packages, dubbed Singapore Airlines Getaway Specials, include airfare, hotel accommodation and return transfers. A major come-on is the free third night's stay for every two nights' stay purchased by passengers.

"The key motivation between the development of the packages is to boost long-haul stopover visitor traffic through Singapore," SIA executive vice president for marketing and the regions Huang Cheng Eng said.

He added that SIA believed demand for leisure travel was still up despite the global economic downturn.

"Despite the difficult economic conditions worldwide, we believe there is still a continuing demand for leisure travel. These packages offer good value for money," he said.

The packages are sold in more than 70 SIA sites all over the world, including those in Europe and India.

The Singapore flag carrier has three stations in India: in Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi. It has another 11 stations in key European cities.

With the signing of the Philippines-Singapore amended air rights agreement in August, both countries' capacity entitlements were increased to 8,700 seats from 6,545 seats.

Civil Aeronautics Board deputy executive director Carmelo Arcilla said in an earlier interview that Singapore had a load of 70 percent, good enough to grant them additional seat entitlements.

With the tour packages, SIA expects more tourists to come to the country.

Travelers to Manila are provided a list of hotels that are part of SIA's buy two nights, get one night free promo.

The accredited hotels include the Manila Hotel, Bayview Park, Imperial Palace Suites, Manila Midtown Hotel, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Intercontinental Hotel, Pan Pacific, Heritage Hotel, Mandarin Oriental, Westin Philippine Plaza and Holiday Inn.

Aside from Manila, SIA also offers budget tours to Bali in Indonesia, Bangkok and Chang Mai in Thailand, Hong Kong, Langkawi and Penang in Malaysia and Perth in Australia.

Gov't pushes perks for AMCs

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has identified the passage of a law to provide incentives to asset management companies as one of the economic cures to be pushed during the economic summit later this month, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said.

He noted that during one of the meetings of the working panels serving as a prelude to the summit, the recovery of the banking sector from a worsening bad loans problem was one of the areas that needed to be addressed.

To do this, Canlas said a law that would provide incentives to asset management companies or AMCs must be passed immediately.

The economic planning chief, who also heads the National Economic and Development Authority, said the economic team has already proposed refinements to a bill on AMCs sponsored by House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Canlas said the refinements to the Act Providing for the Development of Securitization included a relaxation of foreign ownership of real estate assets.

He said that since most AMCs were foreign groups, these could execute long-term lease agreements of 50 years and renewable for another 25 years as a temporary solution to a prohibition on foreigners owning land and real properties in the country.

"We would also like the bill to lift the documentary stamp tax on secondary instruments and to impose a one-time capital gains tax, which could be applied ahead during the transfer of a bad asset from a bank to an AMC or back-ended," Canlas said.

The National Internal Revenue Code requires those selling real estate assets to pay a 6-percent capital gains tax.

The capital gains tax is shouldered by the seller every time a title for a piece of property is transferred.

This means a bank will have to pay the capital gains tax before it can sell the bad assets to an AMC. The AMC will also pay the 6-percent tax before it can sell the real estate asset to another company.

As of September, the non-performing loan ratio of the country's 44 commercial banks stood at 17.92 percent of their total loan portfolio. While this level was slightly lower than the previous month's ratio of 18.03 percent, the improvement was artificially caused by higher interbank borrowings.

"We would like to propose a law to help AMCs to bring down the cost of restructuring. We would like Congress to take a look at the 6-percent capital gains tax and see how we can help banks dispose of their bad assets," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an earlier interview.

Banks have started exploring with foreign institutions how they could put up a jointly owned AMC that would dispose the soured loans as well as bad assets to help clean up the lenders' balance sheets.

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Security Bank net profit up 3.4% in 3rd quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

SECURITY Bank yesterday reported a slightly higher third-quarter net earnings of P336 million, up 3.38 percent or by P11 million from P325 million during the same period last year.

Bank president Rafael Simpao Jr. said the listed universal bank was expecting to register stable net profits of P422 million this year as the company continues to increase its provisions against a relatively modest non-performing loan ratio.

As of the third quarter, the bank, the 14th biggest in the industry, only posted a bad loan ratio of 11.21 percent against an industry average of 17.92 percent as of end-September.

Simpao pointed out that net income before taxes went up by 52 percent in the first nine months of the year to P338 million from P222 million a year ago.

"The improvement in pre-tax income is more significant in the light of the bank's aggressive build-up of its loan risk reserves during the period," Simpao said.

As of end-September, the provision for probable losses amounted to P663 million or 68 percent higher from last year's. He said this was in line with the bank's objective to build up its NPL cover to 60 percent from the current 58 percent against the industry average of 42 percent.

A higher loan-loss cover gives a lender a better chance to cope with rising bad loans.

Security Bank, Simpao said, has opened three new branches in Makati: one on Nieva St. corner Dela Rosa St.; another on Herrera St. corner Esteban and Bolanos Sts.; and one on H.V. Dela Costa St.

While the bank opens new branches, it is also planning to rationalize some of its outlets nationwide by closing some branches and relocating the others.

ADB approves $75-M loan to help RP financial markets

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday approved a $75-million program loan to improve corporate governance in the country and boost the beleaguered Philippine Stock Exchange, which has been badly hit this year by shrinking trade volumes and an exodus of foreign brokers.

In a statement, the ADB said the new package, called the non-bank financial governance program, aims to assist the government in its efforts to increase the efficiency of financial markets and strengthen capital market regulatory institutions.

The bank expressed concern that while recent political events have brought stability, "the stock market continues to reflect weakness in economic fundamentals and a lack of investor confidence."

The local bourse has become one of the worst performing markets in the world, with the main-share PSE composite index falling by about 30 percent since the start of the year. Value turnover in the market has also deteriorated further since the Asian currency turmoil of 1997, shrinking by another 77 percent this year from last year.

As a result, there has been a spate of pullout among foreign brokerage houses. Since January, there are at least 15 foreign brokerage houses which have filed for suspension of trading operations with the PSE.

ADB senior financial economist Naomi Chakwin said: "To build a strong and robust financial sector, the government needs to launch broad-based financial and corporate reforms. These reforms will help strengthen the stock exchange and meet the challenges of technological innovation, globalization and integration of financial markets."

Unlike other previous program loans, the ADB's non-bank financial governance loan will be released in only one tranche before December 2002. It will have a 15-year term, including a grace period of three years, with the Department of Finance as the executing agency and the Securities and Exchange Commission as the implementing agency.

In addition, the ADB said it would provide a $1-million advisory grant to strengthen regulatory and market governance in the Philippines from its Asian Currency Crisis Support Facility funded by the Japanese government.

"The Philippines withstood the 1997 Asian financial crisis relatively well, but its financial and corporate structure remains vulnerable to external shocks. The low level of financial intermediation in the Philippine non-bank sector makes the business sector dependent on bank financing with few alternatives," the ADB said.

The bank also reiterated its concern that the concentration of bank shareholding in a few parties, some with close links to business conglomerates, was often resulting in weak corporate governance.

Even without the financial component, the ADB's non-bank financial governance program for the Philippines started in 1998, beginning with the restructuring of the SEC and the reforms in the PSE.

Lucio Tan says gov't support crucial to PAL

PHILIPPINE Airlines chair Lucio Tan on Wednesday harped on the need to correct the "competitive imbalance" in favor of foreign airlines assisted by their governments following the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Speaking after receiving a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for entrepreneurship from the Makati chapter of the travel group SKAL International, Tan noted that governments worldwide rushed to their national carriers' aid to prevent collapse in the wake of the sharp downturn in the market.

"Many major airlines are operating today only because their respective governments have seen fit to support them," he said.

Tan cited the $15-billion rescue package Washington granted US carriers shortly after Sept. 11, as well as emergency bailouts of flag carriers by the governments of New Zealand, Australia, Canada and some European countries.

But while this massive capital injection had restored some stability to the airline industry, it also created a "gross competitive imbalance ... in favor of those carriers receiving state support," Tan said.

He pointed to the call of the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA), which met last week in Indonesia, for urgent government action to "level the playing field" by assisting airlines in the region.

"For PAL, the need for government support becomes even more paramount considering that it is still under rehabilitation," Tan said.

"The global downturn in the travel market has made it more difficult for PAL to graduate from receivership and sustain viable operations."

Gov't launches dollar-linked notes

THE GOVERNMENT has launched its first issuance of P5-billion US dollar-linked peso notes.

Tapped as joint financial advisers and lead managers of the transaction were Deutsche Bank AG, Multinational Investment Bancorporation and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

The new notes are peso-denominated but linked to the movements in the exchange rate. They will have maturities of two and three years, with semi-annual interest payments and principal repayments to be made in pesos.

However, the interest and redemption amounts may change subject to the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of payment.

Given this unique feature, investors will be able to participate in the movements of the exchange rate upon investing in this instrument.

The Bureau of Treasury aims to raise a minimum of P5 billion for the primary issuance. The two- and three-year notes are scheduled to be issued on Nov. 20 and 21.

The issuance of the notes is part of the financing program of the Macapagal administration, which seeks to introduce an innovative instrument that will broaden the range of investment avenues available to a wider investor base. The issuance is expected to reduce onshore demand for US dollars from investors intending to "dollarize" their assets and encourage increased inward remittances and conversion to pesos from non-resident citizens and other investors.

"We trust that this program will be a creative solution, an answer to the needs of both the issuer and the investors, leading to wider array of financing instruments," said Enrico Cruz, head of global market for Deutsche Bank AG in the Philippines.

Transport group sets RP venture

TOP executives of Danzas Intercontinental Group (DIG), one of the world's leading transport groups, are expected to arrive today to formally announce the joint-venture agreement with a local company and its multimillion-dollar expansion plans.

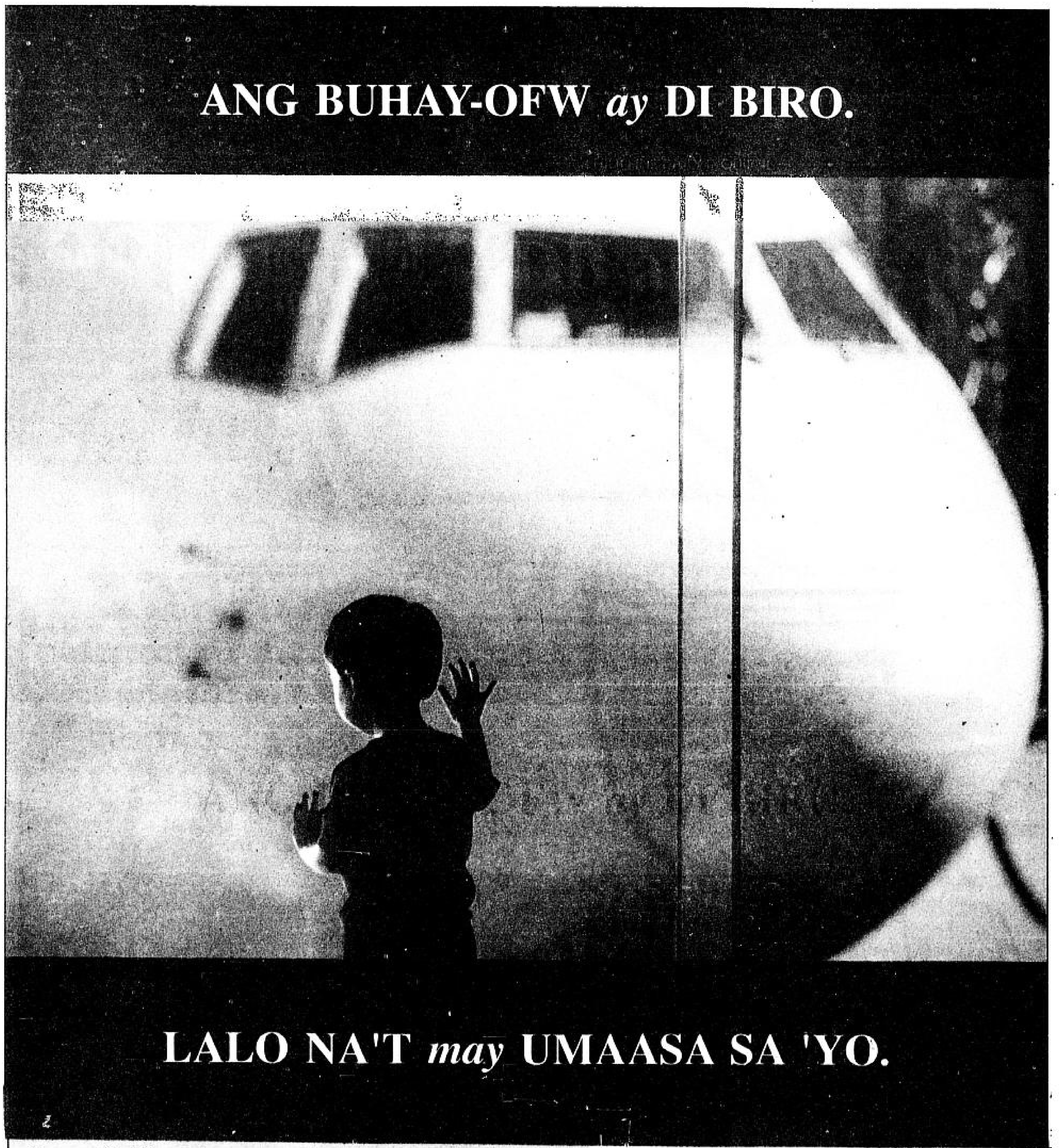
Claude Schner, chief operating officer of Danzas AEI, said the company's top officials were expected to meet with high-ranking government officials to inaugurate Danzas' new facilities in Parañaque City.

The joint-venture company, Danzas AEI Inc., was a result of an arrangement between Danzas and Royal Cargo Corp. (RCC). It is expected to pioneer in state-of-the-art logistics services for transporting incoming and outgoing cargo in the country.

Expected to arrive are Danzas' top officials Renato Chiavi, CEO Intercontinental Division; Juergen John, CEO Asia Pacific; Peter Landsiedel, vice president North Pacific; and Thomas Nieszner, CEO Europe.

Danzas was already Europe's No. 1 overland transport when it merged with AEI, the biggest international airfreight service provider in the United States, making Danzas AEI the leading provider of intercontinental forwarding services.

Danzas-AEI is owned by Deutsche Post World Net, the world's leading logistics service provider which has controlling stakes in various logistics companies worldwide such as DHL International Ltd., Dutch company Nedlloyd, Sweden's ASG, Yellowstone and Global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Portfolio investors returning slowly to RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOME portfolio investors abroad are returning to the Philippines and taking advantage of cheap stocks in the country and the relatively higher yields on government securities.

Data sent to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that net portfolio inflows grew by $51.2 million in the first 10 months of the year.

As of October, inflows from portfolio managers abroad rose to $1.086 billion while outflows stood at $1.04 billion.

During the same period last year, outflows surpassed inflows by $271 million as portfolio managers shoveled money out of the Philippines because of political uncertainties arising from the Senate impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada was forced to step down by a military-backed civilian revolt in January, leading to an improved sentiment among financial markets both here and abroad.

Figures culled from the central bank showed that in October, some $60.2 million worth of portfolio funds went to the country against $54.3 million that went out.

Last month's figures, however, were still lower than those recorded in September. In September, net inflow reached $22 million on $76.1 million worth of inflows and $54.1 million worth of outflows.

In the first week of the month, the trend appeared to be consistent with the previous months' as inflows of $7.3 million surpassed outflows of $6.7 million, leading to a net inflow of $600,000.

An analyst from a local bank explained that some portfolio managers had been hunting for select bargains in the equities market, especially when the Philippine Stock Exchange index dipped to a 10-year low.

At the same time, yields on longer-dated government debt notes increased in October.

Foreign portfolio investments refer to purchases by non-residents of stocks listed in the local stock market, government securities and money market instruments, as well as peso deposits funded by foreign exchange remittance.

Still, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura sounded continuously disappointed with the performance of portfolio investments, saying the government should simply focus on keeping local investors within local shores.

"I am no longer worried about portfolio investors, but we should make sure that our domestic investors stay," he said.

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GOINGS-ON

ACA's cell phone lab

TO MEET the growing demand for cellular phone after-sale repair service, the ACA Franchise Group recently formed Cell phone Lab, a cellular phone repair service center.

Cell phone Lab recently opened its first branch in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. This mobile repair center concept was designed to provide quick and reliable diagnostic and repair services for all brands and models of cellular phones in the market.

Cell phone Lab boasts of a complete line of repair tools and equipment as well as genuine spare parts and accessories.

It is manned by highly trained and experienced cellular phone repair specialists. Cell phone Lab has so far 55 branches all over the country.

Touchcom expanding

GLOBE Telecom has urged Touchcom Philippines Inc. to expand its retail concept store, Cellphones Unlimited.

"The consistent high sales of Cellphones Unlimited was the reason why Globe Telecom urged us to invite investors and add more branches in most part of the country," Touchcom CEO Vincent Leyson said.

Touchcom, founded in 1998, started as a mobile phone retailer based in Cebu and handles the distribution network. Cellphones Unlimited is its retail concept store. In 1999, it became an exclusive dealer of Globe mobile phones.

Cellphones Unlimited has branches in Festival Mall, Greenbelt, Glorietta, Ayala Center, Whitegold and Country Mall in Metro Cebu.

Leyson said the company has marked down the prices of its cell phones and accessories and has online processing which enables postpaid cell phone buyers to have their own lines approved within the day.

New York Life in RP

NEW YORK Life Insurance Co., a Fortune 100 company, is breaking grounds in Manila with a team of highly competent staff and sales force ready to take on the Philippine market through New York Life Insurance (Philippines) Inc.

"Our decision to enter the Philippine market is based on our belief in the industrious Filipino people and the viability of the Philippine economy in the long term," said Gary Benanav, chair and CEO of New York Life International.

The company boasts of several milestones in its 156-year history. New York Life claims to have insured 10 US presidents and disbursed over $1 billion throughout the Great Depression of the 1930s.

It is also the first American insurance company to insure people with physical impairments or hazardous occupations and is the first non-industrial company to offer family insurance. It is also the first major insurance company to offer robust services on the Web.

Do you still trust the SSS

(From page B4)

Union Bank, Meralco and PCI Equitable, plus the P4.5-billion investment in San Miguel amount to P37.5 billion. Only SMC yielded a P1.2-billion margin. All the other investments are now worth only P16 billion or a 57-percent capital loss, in the absolute amount of P21.5 billion. How can I trust such a System?

Multiple denials

Not only is the SSS notorious for such highly controversial investments, it is also fond of denying workers' claims for death, disability and sickness benefits. This trend of denials has reached monstrous proportions. Is the SSS faithful to its mandate to provide for the workers' social security or it is only after the members' monetary contributions to be gambled in its corporate stocks investments? I am writing a book entitled "Justice Denied" where all the denials will be exposed and presented in full.

Justice denied

The records of denials of workers' claims are long and seemingly interminable. The bases are flimsy and very technical. The SSS seems to forget that it is intended for social justice. Its focus seemed to have shifted on stock investments. It has forgotten its main mission of providing for an expeditious, tax-free, and member-friendly social security.

As of today, I know of no other government office that is as inept, as lacking in customer-orientation and as bureaucratic as the SSS. I don't care if it won awards from any award-giving bodies. The members are the ultimate judges of the SSS' relevance.

Abolish the SSS

If the SSS could not, within a short span, reform itself and become truly the haven of workers' social security, then it should be allowed to self-destruct. It should be liquidated and all its assets distributed to all its 24 million members. A new agency should rise to be managed, not by executives who are paid with out-of-this-world salaries, but by volunteer-members ourselves. It should be competitive in service and benefits.

Today's SSS has proven that it could not compete in that open market. We have to let it go.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

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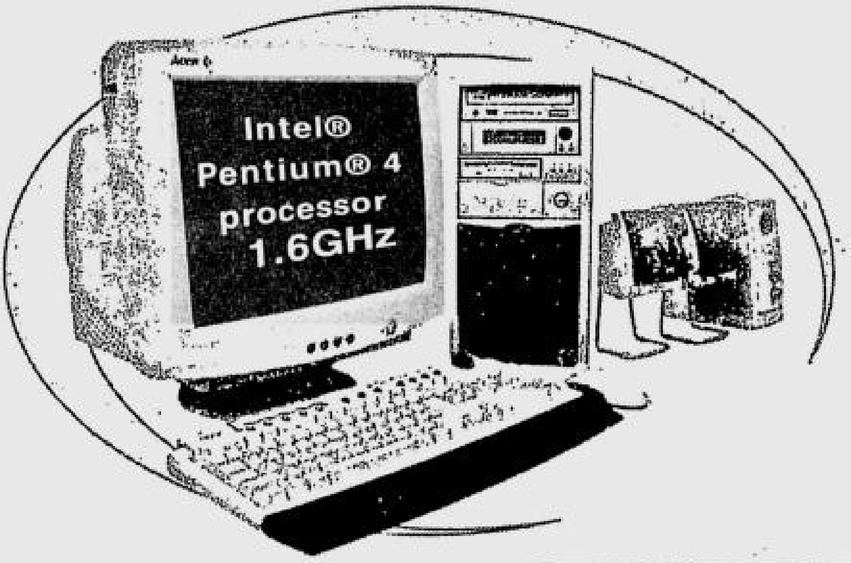

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Benpres posts ₱527M in profit in 3rd quarter

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Benpres Holdings Corp., the holding company of the Lopezes, registered a financial turnaround in the third quarter of this year with a profit of P527 million against a P229-million loss in the same quarter last year.

The company's profit in July to September, however, came largely from extraordinary or non-recurring income.

On Aug. 3, First Philippine Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of Benpres that holds the power interests of the group, completed the sale of its 7.75-percent stake in First Generation Holdings Corp. to Aidec EG Power Corp. Ltd.

The stake was sold for $40 million. The company booked a P1-billion gain on the transaction.

In the first nine months, however, Benpres still posted a net loss of P182 million, slightly larger than the P174 million net loss recorded in the same quarters last year.

Benpres attributed its poor nine-month figures to the weak performance of major investments and higher interest payments. FPHC posted a net income of P2.6 billion during the period.

Debt-ridden telecommunications arm Bayan Telecommunications Inc. is expected to post a net loss of P2 billion this year. It is, in the meantime, continuing negotiations with creditors for the restructuring of $477 million in debt. Of the amount, $200 million was owed to bondholders and $280 million to creditor banks.

Bayantel last October proposed to stretch all obligations to 15 years with a five-year grace period on principal. The obligations bear an interest rate of plus one percent over three-month Libor for dollar-denominated debt plus one percent over the 91-day treasury bill rate.

Unsecured creditors were asked to retire 25 percent of principal debt and to write off interest charges for 18 months beginning Jan. 19, 2001, the date the restructuring started.

Moreover, Benpres' Maynilad Water Services Inc., the water concessionaire for the east zone of Metro Manila, has also been having difficulties in servicing some $800 million in debts that the company inherited from the government in line with the awarding of the water distribution and development contract.

RFM 9-month income up 72%

RFM Corp., the holding company of the Concepcion family, posted a 72-percent jump in its income for the first nine months of the year to P188 million.

This was realized despite the net loss of P60 million in the third quarter which was brought about by huge financial charges.

In a statement, RFM president and chief executive Jose Concepcion III said, "despite a modest increase in net sales of 2 percent reaching P12.2 billion during the period, gross margins have improved by 33 percent."

This, Concepcion said, was mainly due to a better sales mix or greater sales of higher margin products like soft drinks, as well as the improvements in the selling prices of chicken, flour and processed meats which helped the company cover its increasing costs.

"With a tighter management of operating expenses that focused on sustained marketing efforts to build brand equity especially in the Pop Cola and Sarsi soft drink brands, operating income more than tripled to P959 million from P316 million," he added.

A major factor behind RFM's strong nine-month profit performance was the 7-percent decline in the cost of goods to P8.66 billion from P9.347 billion.

RFM is expected to sign soon a memorandum of agreement to sell its 83.2-percent stake in Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp. and the Coca-Cola Co. The SMC-Coca-Cola group has agreed to acquire 100 percent of Cosmos for a total enterprise value of P14 billion.

RFM said it intended to stay as a major player in the food and non-carbonated beverage industry with stronger focus on branded businesses that are expected to bring in more consistency in earnings in the future.

The major brands under the RFM group include Selecta Moo Milk & Sunkist Juice drinks, Fiesta Pasta and other White King flour-based products, and Swift canned meats and hot dogs.

RFM is expected to use some of the proceeds from the Cosmos sale to pay down its debts and declare a reasonable level of cash dividend. It intends to keep a cash reserve to finance its future growth, either through expansion of existing businesses or through acquisition.

The company last May defaulted on the redemption of $65 million worth of convertible bonds.

PFC reports 29% sales growth

PURE Foods Corp. registered a 29-percent growth at the end of the third quarter as sales volumes increased significantly across all its core businesses of processed meats, poultry, feeds and flour.

Consolidated net revenues reached P11 billion during the nine-month period, a record for the company. Operating synergies have begun to be realized following the integration of Pure Foods into San Miguel Corp.'s food business.

Growth in operating income was weighed down by increased operating expenses and higher raw material costs, brought by a steeply depreciated peso. Income from existing businesses increased by 10 percent to P636 million, from P576 million a year ago. This excludes losses incurred from disposed subsidiaries not acquired by SMC. Net income ended 8 percent lower than last year at P523 million.

Pure Food's processed meats business, under Purefoods Hormel Company (PHC)—a joint venture with US-based Hormel Foods International—continued to deliver strong results. Driven by the robust sales of hotdogs, PHC achieved double-digit volume and revenue growth to further strengthen its market lead in the refrigerated meats segment.

Despite weak consumer markets and intense competition, Pure Foods' poultry business sustained its growth. Volumes were up by 8 percent, while revenues soared by 30 percent, as a result of better selling prices. Led by "Pure Delight" chicken hotdog, the company's value added chicken category grew by 28 percent.

Growth was also reported in its commercial feeds business, brought about by aggressive marketing activities and an expanded distribution network. Volumes and revenues in this segment grew by 49 percent and 57 percent, respectively. Flour improved by 20 percent, even as the industry continued to reel from weak demand.

Globe opens $25-M facility

By Abigail L. Ho

NASUGBU, Batangas—Ayala-owned Globe Telecom Inc. yesterday inaugurated a $25-million cable landing station and back haul facility that could make the Philippines a more attractive business and commercial hub in the region.

Globe vice president for carrier business John Young said this would likewise "provide competition that would redound to better service and lower rate, (as well as) provide diversity to the country's international connectivity infrastructure."

The cable landing station will house the transmission equipment that will connect the country to a 17,000-kilometer cable network linking Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Japan and Singapore.

This forms part of the cellular giant's participation in the transnational City-to-City (C2C) Cable Network Project, spearheaded by one of its foreign partners Singapore Telecom.

"With the completion of this cable station, Globe becomes the first of the new carriers in the country to have successfully built a cable landing station and landed an international submarine cable into it," Young said.

He added that the facility would also increase Globe's international traffic handling accessibility.

Aside from the $25-million infrastructure investment, Globe would also be infusing another $40 million into the project. Half of this would be for capacity and the other half for equity.

Young said the capacity in the Northern loop of the project—linking Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and South Korea—would likely be ready for sale by December.

Target clients for the C2C project are not end-users but wholesale clients like Internet service providers and other carriers.

The Southern Ring of the project—linking Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore—would be ready for service by January 2002.

C2C proponents were also looking at possible extensions to Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam in the future.

The project is one of the largest networks in the world in terms of capacity, with a design capacity of 7.68 Terabits or trillion of bits per second and the ability to carry more than 90 million conversations simultaneously.

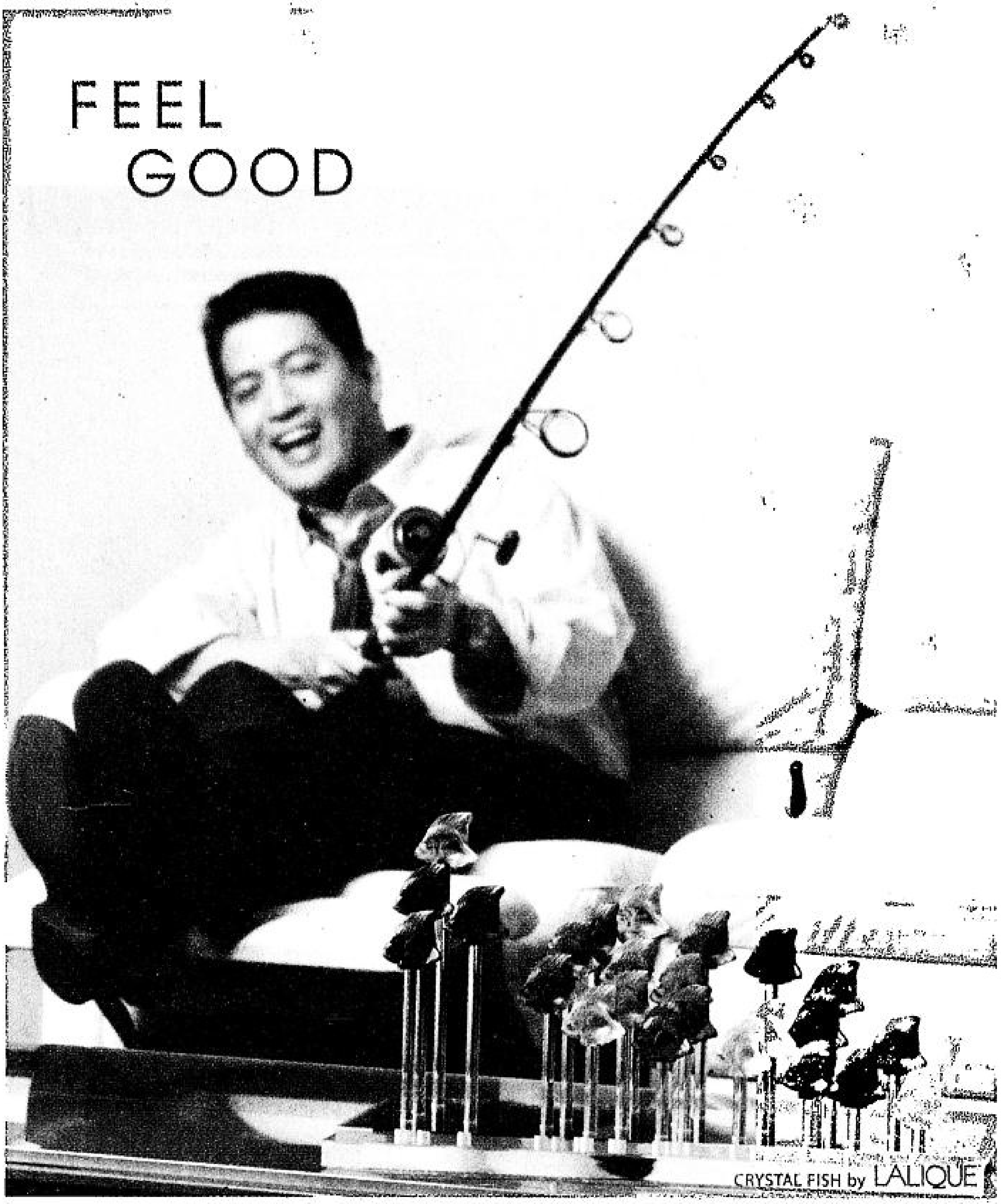
He explained that the company built the cable landing station for the main purpose of landing the C2C cable network.

This project is Globe's first major venture in submarine cable operations. It started construction of the cable landing station in October last year.

Young said Globe was also in the final stages of building a fiber-optic link that would connect the cable station to the Makati central business district.

Construction of the C2C Cable Network was conducted by Tycom Contracting Limited and KDD-SCS.

Other participants in the project include Tycom, NCIC of Taiwan, iAdvantage of Hong Kong, KDDI and KDDI-SCS of Japan, GNG Networks of Korea and Norwest Ventures of the US.



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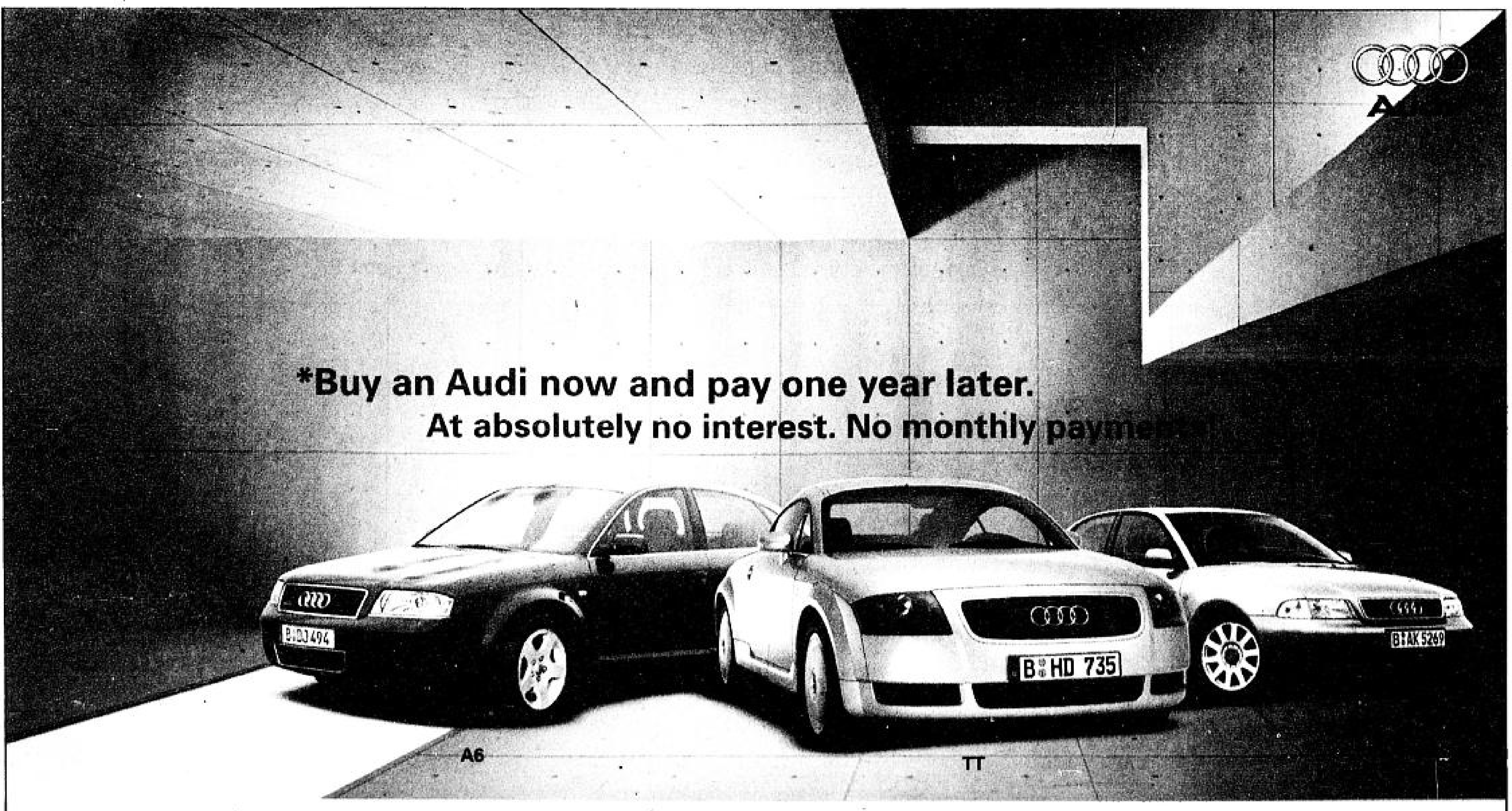
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A6 2.4 Triptonic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

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JAPAN-FUNDED IRRIGATION PROJECT

President Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Yoshihisa Ara (third from right) and Jesus M. Paras (fourth from right) of the National Irrigation Administration inaugurated last week the Bit-os and Aupagan pumping stations of the Lower Agusan Development Project-Irrigation Component at Heroes Hall, Malacañang . The Official Development Assistance project is being supported by the government of Japan through a Japan Bank for International Cooperation loan.

WITH SEC APPROVAL

NSC selling 'free' assets to cover preservation cost

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LIQUIDATOR of National Steel Corp. has spent roughly P240 million to maintain the steel company's Iligan plant and other facilities since it shut down two years ago using funds raised from the disposal of the steel giant's free assets.

In a report, NSC Liquidator Danilo L. Concepcion said some of NSC's free assets have been disposed of to partly defray the cost of preserving the assets of the steel company averaging at P10 million a month, of which P6.9 million a month went to the Iligan plant.

Concepcion said the sale of these assets was made with prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and was only limited to assets not necessary for the preservation effort for the eventual reopening of the Iligan plant.

Former employees of NSC had raised concerns about the sale of NSC's free assets to the President. They claimed that NSC's free assets had already been earmarked for the settlement of all unsecured liabilities, including claims of labor for separation and retirement benefits, in an agreement with creditors.

Concepcion said that the sale was merely an interim measure that would later be paid for from the sale or utilization (by lease) of NSC's encumbered assets. Concepcion stressed that sales were made mostly through sealed bidding or, in case of failed bidding, were auctioned off to parties that have expressed interest in these assets. "But as a rule, no award was made unless our internally set floor price was met," Concepcion said.

The Department of Trade and Industry has invited the three interested parties—Allengoal, Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. and Voest Alpine—to firm up their offers in a presentation scheduled later this month. The three earlier submitted their lease tenders for NSC's Iligan facility but the committee declared them wanting of the basic requirements of the terms of reference.

Sy . . .

(From page B1)

nomic activity in those areas.

"We have to average 2 to 2.5 malls each year. There are areas where we accelerated and there are some areas we sort of delayed (our expansion)," she said.

She disclosed that there were ongoing discussions to put up a mall inside the Clark Special Economic Zone. On the other hand, she said the mall to be put up in the San Lazaro racetrack in Manila on a property to be acquired from the Manila Jockey Club Inc. was still in the planning stage and would be finished by 2004.

Meanwhile, the Mall of Asia, which was originally targeted for opening by 2003, would instead start operations in 2005 as the group decided to revise the master plan.

"The whole plan is to make it more exciting than before. Instead of vertical developments or mall buildings, we'll make it the sprawling type," she said.

Sy-Coson also said the SM group was managing some malls in mainland China, the operations of which were not folded into SMPH, but stressed there were no immediate plans to go regional.

"We can promote SM in China in the future and yes, we may attach them to SM Prime but it's still far out in the future," she said.

She also noted that the recent slowdown in remittances from overseas Filipinos has so far not tempered the sales performance of SMPH.

For the first nine months of the year, SMPH posted a net income of P2.6 billion, up by 10 percent from the level recorded in the same period last year as revenue expanded by 17 percent.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 44

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION
OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS,

SP. PROC. NO. 01-101850

ANA MARIA KORUGA,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

A verified amended petition for the Suspension of Payments was filed on September 19, 2001 by Ana Maria Koruga, through counsel, alleging, among other things, that she has debts, current and contingent, owing to various creditors here in the Philippines and abroad in the total sum of SEVEN HUNDRED SEVEN MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIX PESOS AND THIRTY EIGHT CENTAVOS (P707,990,806.38); that while she possesses sufficient property to cover all her debts, she foresees the impossibility of meeting them all when they respectively fall due and she prays that after due notice and hearing an order be issued declaring petitioner in the state of suspension of payments.

The creditors of petitioner in the Philippines are as follows:

1.	Albert C. Aguirre, Administrator of the Estate of Tomas B. Aguirre, c/o Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank, De la Rosa corner Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City	P 209,250,000.00
1-A	Contingent credit for interest portion of judgment vs. Ana Maria Koruga in Seattle	99,057,500.00
2.	Abello Cruz & Regala Law Office, ACCRA Law, ACCRA Bldg., 122 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	3,160,150.88
2-A	Contingent Legal Fee ACCRA Law 2.5% of Ana Maria A. Koruga's share of the net estate of Tomas B. Aguirre	
3.	Bernas Law Office, 7th Floor, Privatization Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	3,750,000.00
4.	Jose M. Roy, III, #33 Solar St.	P 15,000,000.00
5.	Antonio P. Manahan, Jr., #37 West Avenue, Nayong Kaunlaran, Diliman, Quezon City	P 3,000,000.00

Petitioner's creditors abroad are the following:

1.	Washington Mutual Loan, P.O. Box 1093 Northridge, CA 981328 (888) 800-8738 USA (Loan No. 0024846917)	P 5,718,897.00 ($114,377.94)
2.	GMAC Mortgage, 3451 Hammond Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50702 USA (Loan No. 306904789)	P 7,594,000.00 ($151,880.00)
3.	William Kastner Gibbs, P.O. Box 21926 Seattle, Washington, 98111-3926, USA	P 4,748,800.00 ($94,976.00)
4.	Dorsey & Whitney, P.O. Box 1680, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480 USA	P 725,000.00 ($14,500.00)
5.	Preston, Gates, Ellis, LLP 701 5th Avenue Suite, 5000 Seattle Washington 98104-7078 USA	P 617,150.00 ($12,343.00)
6.	Alan Wenokur, 1601 2nd Avenue Suite 1080 Seattle, Washington 98101, USA	P 62,500.00 ($1,250.00)
7.	Robert Banks, Banks Law Office P.C. 222 SW Columbia St. Suite 1200 Portland Oregon 97201 USA	P 29,650.00 ($593.00)
8.	Tom Wall, 3920 Burke Ave. North, Seattle, Washington 98103 USA	P 500,000.00 ($10,000.00)
9.	Discover Platinum Card, P.O. Box 15192, Wilmington Delaware, 19850-5192 USA (Discover Platinum Card 6011-0091-9800-0536)	P 730,835.00 ($14,616.70)
10.	(Discover Platinum Card 6011-0093-0022-1053)	P 237,231.50 ($4,744.63)
11.	US Bank National Association ND P.O. Box 6300 Fargo, ND 58125-6300 USA (US Bank National Association ND 4251-2410-0028-5252)	P 669,693.50 ($13,393.87)
12.	US Bank National Association ND 4127-1499-0325-6191	P 844,005.50 ($18,880.11)
13.	Chase Platinum Visa, P.O. Box 52195 Phoenix, Arizona, 85072-2195 USA (Chase Platinum Visa 4305-8719-0066-4660)	P 343,092.00 ($6,861.84)
14.	MBNA America, P.O. Box 15026 Wilmington Delaware 19850-5026 USA (MBNA America 4264-2912-3200-8610)	P 785,275.00 ($15,705.50
15.	Citi Driver's Edge Card P.O. Box 6406 The Lakes, NV 88901-6406 USA (Citi Driver's Edge Card 5424-1804-8745-7456)	P 544,101.50 ($10,882.03)
16.	First Card, P.O. Box 6650 Wilmington, Delaware, 19899-8650 USA (First Card 4678-067-008-416)	P 863,553.00 ($17,271.06)
17.	First USA Bank (GE Awards) P.O. Box 8650 Wilmington, Delaware, 19899-8650 USA (First USA Bank (GE Awards) 5544-5303-0610-1823)	P 503,111.50 ($10,062.23)
18.	Keybank, P.O. Box 5278 Boise, Idaho, 83705-0278 USA (Contingent Credit of Keybank Loan No. 1000009501)	P 1,248,869.50 ($24,977.39)
19.	Ford Credit, P.O. Box 1608 Bellevue, Washington, 98009-1608 USA (Contingent Credit Ford Credit (Auto Loan) FS A532 YX8J secured by the mini van)	P 1,116,118.00 ($22,322.36)
20.	GN Mortgage Corp., 1950 112th Avenue, NE, St. 103, Bellevue Washington, USA (Contingent Credit GN Mortgage Corp. Loan No. 2450898 secured by 2304 SW Alaska St., Seattle WA)	P 5,008,062.50 ($100,161.25)
21.	Finova, P.O. Box 30028 Salt Lake City, Utah, 84130-0028 USA (Contingent Credit Christopher T. Koruga Ana Maria A. Koruga Finova Loan No. 86000382 secured by 5454 30th Ave. SW Seattle Wa. 98126 Carpet Lease of Lodge)	P 7,100,000.00 ($142,000.00)
22.	Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder, P.S. P.O. Box C-90016 Bellevue, Washington 98009-9016 USA (Contingent Credit Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder, P.S. contingent legal fees for Topman Fellow Corp.)	P 3,234,950.00 ($64,699.00)
23.	Contingent Credit for: Washington Mutual Loan No. 000610294104 secured by the real and personal property of the corporation principally the Lodge at Eagle Ridge	P 320,000,000.00 ($6,400,000.00)
24.	Contingent Credit for Washington Mutual Loan No 0004713095 secured by 5454 30th Ave. SW Seattle, WA. 98126	P 3,679,374.00 ($73,587.48)
25.	Contingent Credit for Washington Mutual Loan No. 5952796034 secured by 2310 SW Alaska St., Seattle, WA	P 7,868,886.00 ($157,377.72)

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and in substance, let the hearing of this case be set on November 20 and 22, 2001 at 8:30 in the morning at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 44, Manila, at which place, date and time all the above named creditors and all persons interested in the proceedings may appear and to show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

The petitioner is enjoined, henceforth, from disposing her properties, except insofar as it concern the ordinary operation of commerce or industry in which the petitioner is engaged, and make any payments outside the necessary or legitimate expenses of her business, until further order of this court. All pending execution against the petitioner is likewise suspended in accordance with Sec. 6 the Insolvency Law as amended.

Let this order be published once in a newspaper of general circulation at the expense of the petitioner.

Furnish all the creditors copy of this order at the expense of the petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, September 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) EDELWINA CATUBIG PASTORAL
Presiding Judge

(PDI--Nov. 16, 2001)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Capt. Akio Yorifuji** has resigned as Director of **Dalisay Shipping Corporation** and will be replaced by **Capt. Yaoki Hamada** effective 08 November 2001.

(PDI--Nov. 16, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RIZALINA T. CRUZ PER DOC. NO. 343; PAGE NO. 70; BK. NO. XLV; SERIES OF 2001 NOTARIZED BY WILFREDO B. AMISCARAY PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001

Notice is given that the estate of the late RODOLFO B. ESTALANO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc 653 Page 131 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Nicomedes R. Martelino Jr of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-Nov. 9, 16 & 23,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificates of Stock Nos. 21 and 47 issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of LINO ED LIM representing a total of 312 shares have been lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that **Official Receipt Numbers 412209 to 412250** of the Philippine Daily Inquirer was lost.

Any transaction covered by this O.R. is no longer valid.

Philippine Daily Inquirer Management

(PDI -- Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that Mr. **GAETANO P. VITRANO** whose picture appears hereto is no longer connected with Centro Ceramica Corp. as Vice President effective **April 24, 2001**. Any transactions entered into by him in behalf of the Company on or after said date shall not be honored by the Company and shall be considered null and void.

(PDI--Nov. 16, 2001)

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF MANGATAREM (Pangasinan), INC. (RBMI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operation will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from November 16 to December 13, 2001, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   The settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 in RB Mangatarem, Inc.—Head Office as well as the start of payoff operations in RB Mangatarem, Inc.—Bayambang Branch will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan) Inc. is on **April 8, 2003**. After April 8, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Nov. 15 & 16, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that **TRUE NORTH INSURANCE AGENCY** with office address, UG, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's Building, Philam Avenue, Las Piñas City, represented by **MS. ROSEMARIE LOU LOPEZ TORRES** whose picture appears above, is no longer an authorized agency of **PARAMOUNT GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION** with office address, 3rd, 15th, & 16th Floors, Sage House, 110 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City effective October 12, 2001. Any transaction entered into with the said agency and / or **MS. ROSEMARIE LOU LOPEZ TORRES** will not be honored by PARAMOUNT GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION after the said date.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
2nd Floor ICC Bldg. NIA Complex
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. IV invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to prequalify and bid for services to implement Community Organizing work in Honda Bay, Pto. Princesa City, Palawan under the Income Diversification Component of the Fisheries Resources Management Project (FRMP).

BAY	PROVINCE	CITY	COASTAL BARANGAYS
Honday Bay	Palawan	Puerto Princesa	Langogan, Binduyan, Concepcion, Tanabag, San Rafael, Manalo, Babuyan, Maayon, Lucbuan, Maroyugon, Salvacion, Sta. Cruz, Bacungan, Sta. Lourdes, Tagburos, San Jose, San Manuel, San Miguel

NGOs that are to be considered for prequalification must have at least five years relevant experience on community organizing for coastal resource management and livelihood development in the province and city mentioned above.

The general scope of work involves organizations work to establish community based organization; continuing assistance to the community organizations to build up membership and develop leadership and capability in undertaking coastal resource management and micro-enterprise activities; and assistance in FRMP implementation at local levels.

Amount the specific activities to be undertaken by the selected NGO include:

1. Strengthening of fisherfolk associations and other self-help groups in the coastal communities to engage in income diversification and micro-enterprise activities;
2. Initiation of primary cooperatives to essentially become multi-purpose cooperatives, giving more attention to complementation of water-based and land-based activities;
3. Assist BFAR in the conduct of education and training that is focused in mobilizing the organizational capability of their cooperatives to access external opportunities and potentials towards empowerment.
4. Assist BFAR in the conduct of LGU planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of various CRM concepts and best practices; and
5. Continue the unfinished scope of work by the previous contracted NGO in the said Bay.

Interested NGOs must submit notarized prequalification statements together with the required documents to the BFAR Regional Office No. IV which have jurisdiction over the areas where they are interested in working. Documents must be properly "tabbed" to correspond with each pre-qualification requirement and should be received not later than 5:00 P.M. on NOVEMBER 23, 2001. Attention: The Chairperson, Prequalification, Evaluation and Awards Committee. Forms for prequalification may be obtained from the BFAR Regional Office No. IV.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR MS. ROSA F. MACAS
ADDRESS: 2/F ICC Bldg., NIA Road, NIA Compound, EDSA,
Diliman, Quezon City
CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS: 926-8616 (Telefax); 926-1901, 926-6071 to 79
Local 192, 193 & 194

BFAR Regional Office No. IV reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as to waive any defect or informality in the submitted bid documents. It also reserves the prerogative to accept any bid it may consider as most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ROSA F. MACAS**
Regional Director

(PDI--Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2001)

Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (045) 900-0092

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY of:

Package 016-S-2001:	**KWH METER, GE 1-70 S, 3W with BASE 240 V (Recon) - 5,000 pcs.**
Package 017-S-2001:	**BX Wire #8** **2 Wire Stranded - 50 rolls**
Package 018-S-2001:	**STEEL POLES, Octagonal (ISO Certified)** **35 Feet - 50 pcs.** **30 Feet - 50 pcs.**

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga from **November 19, 2001 to November 22, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 22, 2001**.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

OBITUARIES

Jose "Pepito" A. Brual

of Bauan, Batangas

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 8, 2001 at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife **Margie**; children **Mary Rose & Nicky, Rey & Vivien, Tato & Weng**, and **Cristina**; grandchildren **Venice** and **AJ**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Hector & Bubut, Sen (†) & Minda, Paquito** and **Tess (†), Oscar & Cris, Rody & Gigi, Godo III & Marie**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be tomorrow, Saturday, November 17, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Bauan, Batangas.

LEVI R. BOTOR

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on November 11, 2001 at the age of 68.

His loving wife **Norma**; children, grandchildren & relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, November 17, 2001, 10:00 AM at La Funeraria Paz after the Requiem Mass at 8:00 AM.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Jose Paz

President of Simplex Industrial Corp.

Peacefully joined his creator on Monday, November 12, 2001 at the age of 91

His bereaved wife, **Dy Siu Tin**; children, **Venson, Joey and Elsie, Danny and Anna, Simon and Lengleng, Martin, Bessie and Bengson, Jordan**; grandchildren, **Sasha, Camille, Clarice, Krizia; Diandra, Cheska, Derrick, Darren, Brian, Nichol, Adriane, Mathew, Nickee, Andrew, Benjamine,** and **Evan**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz Ground Floor, Chapel A, Araneta Ave, Q.C.

Interment will be on Sunday November 18, 2001

So sadly missed
So lovingly remembered
So dearly loved

In Loving Memory on the
First Death Anniversary of our Dearly Beloved

Dr. Jose Ma. "Joma" E. Gutierrez

(March 18, 1968 - Novembre 16, 2000)
U.P. College of Medicine Class 1994

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on November 16.

Christ the King, Green Meadows	7:00 am
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 am
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	7:00 am
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila	6:00 am
Our Lady of EDSA Shrine	12:15 pm
Chapel of the Eucharistic, Megamall	12:15 pm
St. Paul Cathedral, Vigan City	5:30 am

His mother, brothers, sister, nieces, nephew and relatives wish to thank those who condoled with them in their moment of grief.

Atty. ANTONIO "TONYING" PARTOZA SR.

of Pagadian City and San Pedro, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 14, 2001 at the age of 93.

His bereaved wife **Ceferina**; children **Antonio Jr.** and **Nelia Domingo, Paz** and **Daisy**; grandchildren **Pia** and **Arman, Andrea, Antonio Nicolas III** and **Jose Luis**; great grandchild **Nina Isabel**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Bonifacio St., Pagadian City.

Interment will be on Monday, November 19, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

PILAR MARTIN MARCO

*Has joined her husband **Vicente** on November 15, 2001 at the age of 81.*

Her children **Tony & Christine, Rorit & Ben, Butch & Tootsie, Nena & Eric, Asa, Boy, Chiqui & Joey**; grandchildren & great grandchildren mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Chapel at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 18, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

DR. GAUDENCIO (DIDING) MAGSINO CARANDANG

of Tanauan, Batangas

Joined our Creator in the place of salvation at the age of 75.

He is survived by his wife **BELEN TORRES CARANDANG**; children **BENILDA** and **EFREN SALVADOR, ROY** and **BABY CARANDANG**, and **FR. GAUDENCIO JR., SDB**; grandchildren **ANGELICA** and **ALEJANDRO SALVADOR**, and **TIMOTHY** and **CARLA CARANDANG**; sisters **ILUMINADA HIDALGO, PURIFICACION REPATO**, and **LILY MALABANAN**; and brother-in-law **ENGR. CONRADO REPATO.**

His remains lie in state at the Modesto Castillo Cultural Center (beside St. John the Evangelist Parish Church), Mabini Avenue, Tanauan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 17, 2001 at the Himlayan sa Tanauan, Mabini Avenue, Barangay Sambat, Tanauan, Batangas after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Modesto Castillo Cultural Center.

Please omit flowers. Cash donations will be sent to institutions focusing on studies and research work on prostate cancer.

WTO sets off on new round of trade talks

DOHA, Qatar—World trade ministers took aim Wednesday at barriers to the free flow of goods and services, approving a three-year trade liberalization process they hope would act as an antidote to terror-driven recession.

Ministers from the 142-member World Trade Organization backed the new round—dubbed the "Doha Development Agenda"—at the end of a grueling six-day conference here.

Exhausted from near non-stop bargaining, delegates broke into broad smiles and applauded heartily when Qatari Commerce Minister and conference chair Youssef Kamal banged a gavel to signal that the deal had been approved by consensus.

Their decision kicks off a new cycle of multilateral talks aimed at slashing trade barriers worldwide, a process in which two of the WTO's newest members, China and Taiwan, will take part.

The two archrivals were admitted to the organization with great fanfare during the conference, with ministers predicting their accession would have a salutary impact on global economic momentum.

Addressing a WTO plenary session, Takeo Hiranuma, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, linked the overall agreement here to the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on the United States.

"With the growing uncertainty and instability in the global economy following the tragic events of Sept. 11, I am extremely happy that we can send out a positive message to the world," he said.

Speaking for Africa, Kenyan Commerce Minister Mustafa Bello said the continent was "satisfied with the conclusions that have been drawn."

"Unlike in Seattle, Africa has been satisfied with all the stages of consultations."

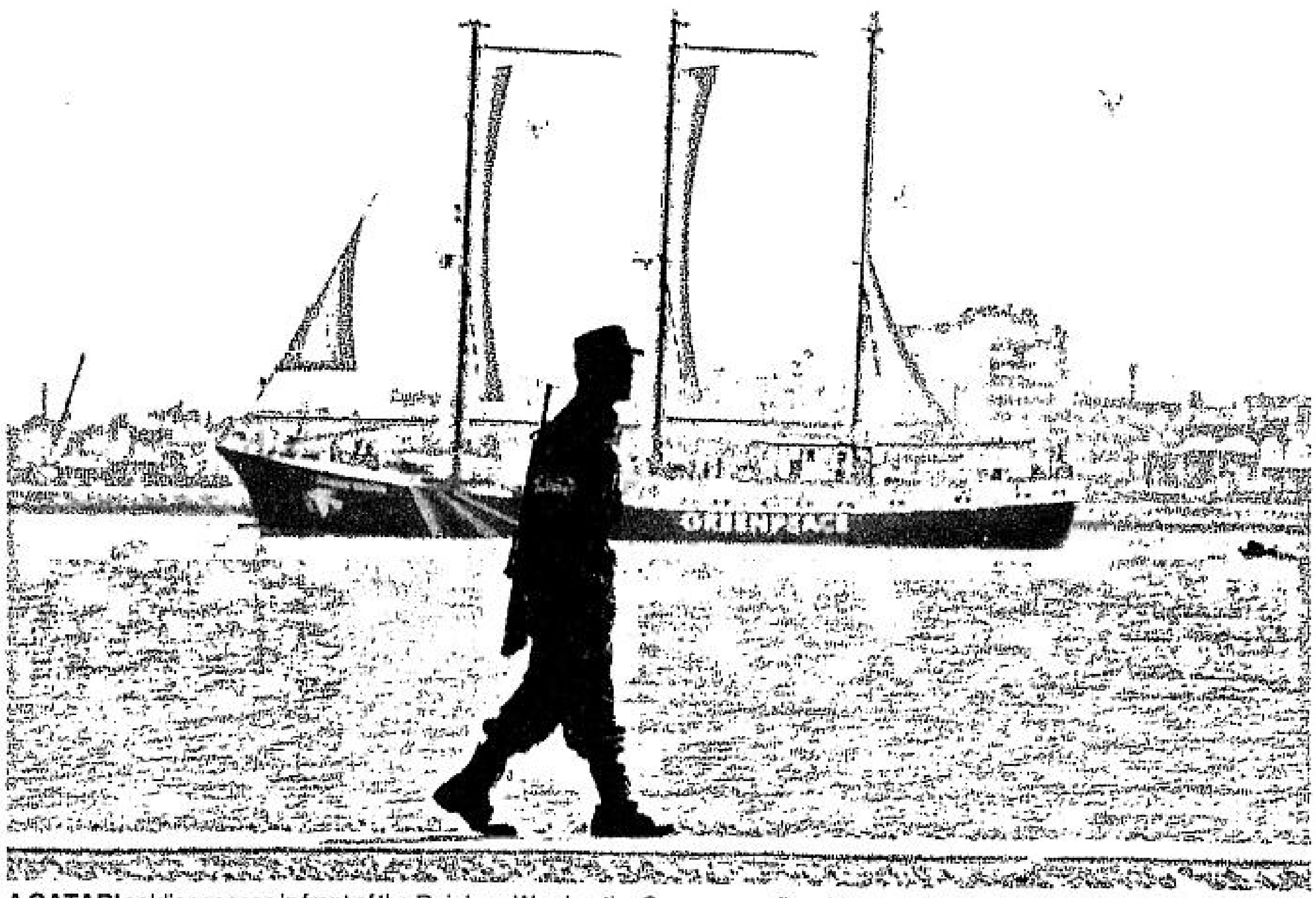
For many delegates here, Seattle evokes bitter memories of a four-day fiasco in December 1999 when WTO ministers, riven by internal differences and rattled by militant street protests, failed to launch a new round.

"Today, the members of the WTO have sent powerful signal to the world," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick told the conference. "We have removed the stain of Seattle."

Agreement here did not come easy, as delegations clung to entrenched national positions until the last minute.

A major break came in the early hours of Wednesday when negotiators managed to mollify fierce European Union objections to language in the text calling for the phasing out of agricultural export subsidies.

Until then, the row between the European Union, on one hand, and the United States and an alliance of agricultural exporting countries, known as the Cairns Group, on the other, had threatened to wreck the conference—just as it did in Seattle. *AFP*



A QATARI soldier passes in front of the Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace flagship, near the main venue of the WTO meeting a few hours ahead of the final session, as the WTO conference was extended into an extra sixth day in Doha, Qatar. AP

Developing countries gain ground

DOHA, Qatar—Developing countries emerged with several big gains from a just-concluded World Trade Organization conference here, winning concessions on key points from the United States and the European Union.

Though they came to the Doha meeting deeply skeptical about the chances of making their voices heard, they nonetheless managed to make their presence felt.

Speaking for Africa, Kenyan Commerce Minister Mustafa Bello said at a final plenary session that the continent was "satisfied with the conclusions that have been drawn."

"Unlike in Seattle, Africa has been satisfied with all the stages of consultations."

At a previous WTO conference in Seattle in December 1999, developing countries were angered at what they said had been their exclusion from critical discussions.

Unlike the Seattle meeting, which collapsed in failure, WTO ministers meeting here managed to overcome internal divisions in six days of grueling negotiations to launch a new round of multilateral trade liberalization talks.

By any account, the sweetest victory for developing countries here was an agreement that a WTO accord on patent protection did not prevent them from manufacturing or importing cheaper, generic medicines to combat public health scourges such as AIDS.

Western nations led by the United States and Switzerland had come to Doha insisting that WTO regulations on patent protection should not be weakened, arguing that to do so would discourage drug companies from investing in new medicines. *AFP*

Activists say trade round threatens poor

DOHA, Qatar—Activists warned Wednesday that a far-reaching accord to expand global trade threatened the world's poor, but they welcomed a deal to secure access to life-saving drugs.

"This is a massive defeat for poor people around the world," World Development Movement director Barry Coates said after trade ministers launched a new three-year round of talks to free international commerce.

The World Trade Organization meeting in the Qatari capital had stretched too far by opening negotiations on the environment, trademarks, anti-dumping, agriculture and services, Coates said.

"This is an impossible workload for even the larger middle income countries let alone the world's poorest countries. It is a recipe for their further marginalization," he said.

Other sensitive topics, including investment flows across borders, which developing countries fear will open nascent industries to foreign competition, were delayed, Coates said.

"The deeply unfair process of Doha meant that the whole of the ministerial conference was devoted to issues of interest to the rich countries," he said.

British-based humanitarian charity Oxfam praised the WTO affirmation of the rights of poor countries to secure affordable drugs to combat scourges such as AIDS and tuberculosis despite a WTO rule protecting the patents of pharmaceutical manufacturers.

But it also raised questions about the new trade round, dubbed the Doha Development Agenda.

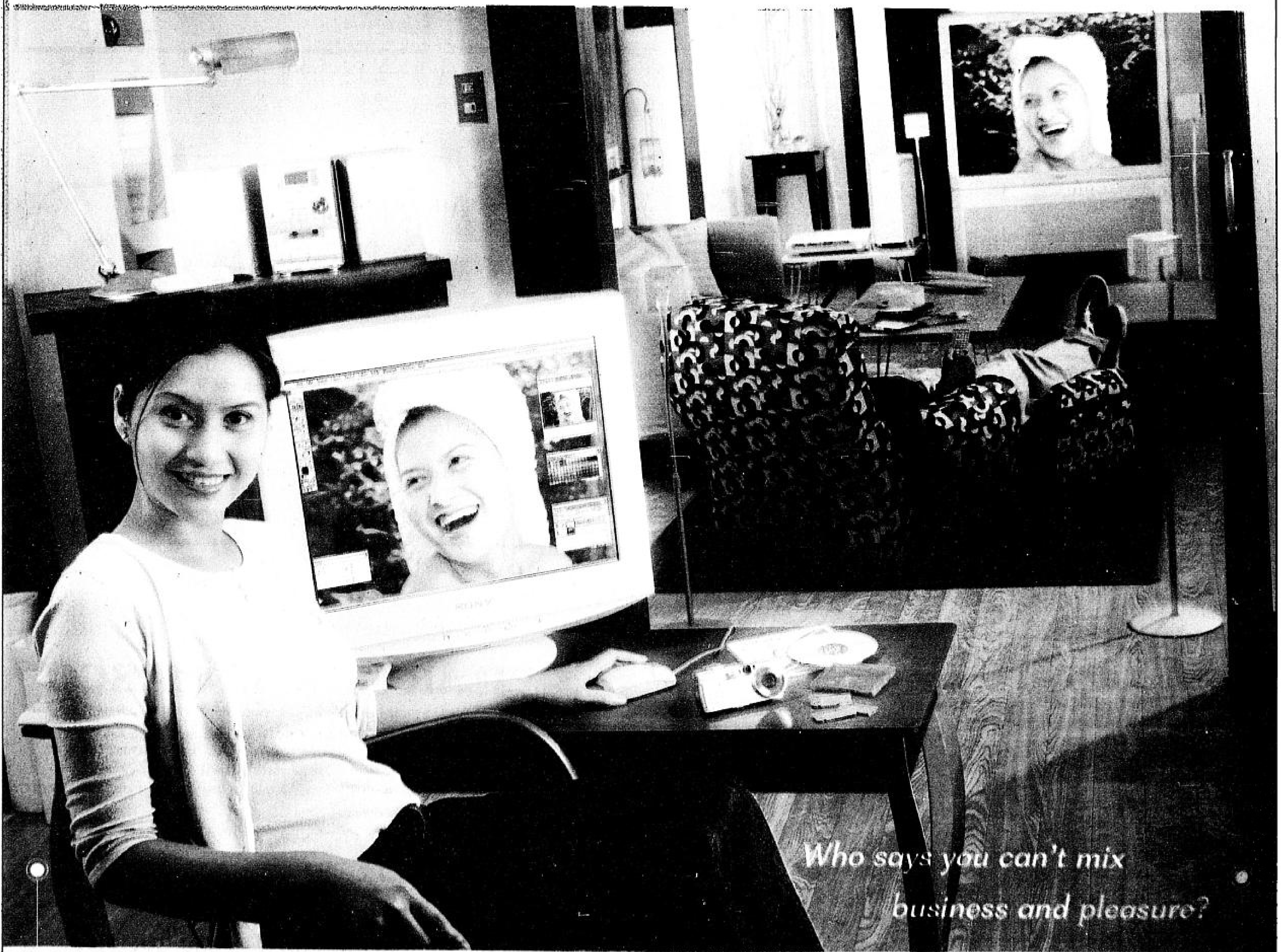
"The deal on patents will help poor countries get cheaper medicines," said Oxfam senior policy advisor Michael Bailey.

"Doha sends a strong message that people's health overrides the interests of big drug companies, who will find it much harder to bully poor countries over patents," he said.

But Bailey criticized the scope of the new trade negotiations.

"This will overload their negotiating capacity and force them to unconditionally open their markets to multinational corporations," he argued.

Oxfam said the agreement appeared to allow developing countries to opt out of talks on politically charged new issues such as investment and the environment. Poor countries say they are afraid new environmental rules may be used to block their exports. *AFP*



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"Is business pleasurable" or
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The Honorable Jose Ortiz Teodoro, Jr.

Chief of Mission (Retired)
Department of Foreign Affairs

Peacefully joined our Creator on Wednesday
the Fourteenth of November Two Thousand and One at the age of Eighty Seven.

His loving Wife **Narcisa de la Fuente-Teodoro**;
his beloved Parents, **The Honorable Jose de la Paz-Teodoro** (†) and **Fe Concepcion-Ortiz** (†);
his beloved Children and their Spouses **Felix** and **Lucina Ocampo**, **Manuel Ananias**,
Enrique and **Regina Araneta**, **Alejandro** and **Guity Shafizadeh**, **Jose Joaquin Miguel**,
Miguel Jose Antonio; his loving Grandchildren and their Spouses **Janina Narcisa**
and **Kirk Arambulo**, **Margarita Louisa**, **Paola Kristina** and **Lorne Yawney**, **Felix Alberto**,
Manuel Jose and **Ana Isabel Zamorano**, **Melissa Elena**, **Rafael Eduardo**, **Bettina**, **Carla**, **Justin**;
his Great Grandchildren **Bianca Maria**, **Emilio Alfonso**, **Daniella Roberta**, **Camilla**, **Sebastian**;
his Brothers and Sisters **Alfonso** (†), **Leonida Diy** (†), **Francisca de Asis**, **Clariza Diokno**,
Lourdes Sian Wright, **Ramon**, **The Honorable Gilberto Teodoro Sr.**
and **Rosita Wolf** and their Spouses.

His Nephews and Nieces, Relatives and Friends all request the pious readers
to offer prayers and acts of charity for the eternal repose of his Soul.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The Interment date will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary of

ATTY. EDISTIO F. SORIANO

who passed away on November 17, 2000.

Masses will be offered on November 17, 2001
at the following churches:

1.	St. Bridget of Sweden Church - Van Nuys, California	12:00 p.m. (Pacific time)
2.	Sto. Domingo Church - Quezon Ave., Q.C.	12:15 p.m.
3.	Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace - EDSA Shrine	12:15 p.m.
4.	Our Lady of Hope Parish - Pag-Asa, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
5.	Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes - Kanlaon, Q.C.	7:30 a.m./6:30 p.m.
6.	St. Paul Parish Church - Mo. Ignacia, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
7.	Malate Catholic Church - Malate, Manila	6:00 p.m.
8.	Holy Eucharist Parish - Moonwalk, Parañaque	7:00 p.m.
9.	Our Lady of Loreto Parish - Sampaloc, Manila	8:00 a.m.
10.	San Roque Parish Church - Tañgos, Navotas, M.M.	8:30 a.m.
11.	St. Paul Metropolitan Cathedral - Vigan City	6:30 a.m.
12.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey - Fatima, Vigan City	6:30 a.m.

His loving wife **ESTER**; children **EMMYR, BOYING, ERVICK, EPPIE, ERIC, ERNIE**; in-laws **DITAS, FIDEL, CECILLE, RUBY**; and grandchildren **ISABEL, CHRIS, TONETTE, KARLA, PETER**, and **TIMOTHY**, wish to thank all those who continue to offer their prayers and their good works for his eternal rest.

Flor De Liz (Dely) G. Agregado

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 14, 2001.

Her beloved husband **Angel Arceo Agregado**; children **Flor, Bong, Wel, Odette, Eddie** (deceased), **Angie, Malu, Alvin, & Gerry**; daughters-in-law **Alda, B-Anne, Susan, Gina, Bev**; sons-in-law **Joey & Ruben**; grandchildren, great grandchildren pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Cremation will be on November 18, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at Funeraria Paz, (South Wing) Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Forever and dearly loved ***DADDY***

MARCIAL NGO CHUA

June 30, 1940 - November 14, 2001

A devoted husband to **CLAIRE CHUA**;
a loving father to **MERRY-CHARM, MERRY-MELODY, MERRY-JUNE** and **MERRY-JAN**;
a good son to his father **CHUA LIN GUI** (†) and mother **NGO PAN**;
and loving brother to his siblings **BANTAT** (†), **ALFONSO & IRENE, LILIA, TINA, VIRGINIA & LUIS, LORENZO & ESTER**.

He finally made his way through this world to meet his Maker and Savior, Jesus Christ.
We request that all those whose lives have been touched by DAD to pray
for the repose of his soul.

He will be truly missed by his family, relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on
Sunday, November 18, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Cremation rites will be held at La Funeraria Paz, Inc. - Crematorium and
followed by interment at Santuario del Sto. Cristo, Blumentritt, San Juan.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us
to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

Small Asia bond marts need to link up–IMF

SYDNEY—Individual bond markets in Asia may not be able to develop sufficient liquidity to be viable, and they may need to consider linking up, a senior International Monetary Fund official said on Thursday.

IMF assistant director for Asia and the Pacific Charles Adams told a regional conference that the main stumbling blocks to developing bond markets were a lack of highly rated corporations to issue debt and currency restrictions on foreigners.

"On local markets, I am very skeptical whether they are able to reach the sort of liquidity required," Adams said.

He said although official markets had expanded since the Asian crisis of 1997-1998, corporate markets had not grown very rapidly.

He was speaking on the first day of a two-day conference on regional financial markets organized by the IMF and the Australian National University.

"I have to say this delicately but I think there is something of an inconsistency in some countries' efforts to develop local bond markets," Adams said after a presentation.

"And that is that some countries, at the same time that they're trying to create local currency bond markets, have also been imposing restrictions on the access of foreigners to domestic credit."

He cited Singapore as an example but noted some limitations on foreigners had been lifted.

Since the Asian crises, there has been a surge in interest in developing local bond markets as a way of lowering systemic risk and shifting intermediation out of the banking system.

Authorities have had to issue large amounts of domestic bonds to fund purchases on non-performing loans and recapitalize banks as part of the corporate and bank restructuring in the wake of the crises.

Between 1997 and 2000, outstanding stocks of local currency bonds in Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, more than doubled to almost $425 million.

But Adams questioned whether some of the smaller countries in the region would be able to provide the liquidity required to make their markets attractive, or whether the solution would be based on trying to link together.

He said any such arrangements would be "quasi-regional" involving linkages between a few countries, but the markets would not be fully integrated. For now, the biggest stumbling block was in developing the corporate sector and this seemed to be true "across the board.

"One of the most important issues is when one looks across a number of these countries, there is simply not the large number of highly rated corporates who could issue in these markets," Adams said.

He cited South Korea, where a boom in corporate debt a year ago had now evaporated.

"A year later, it's dead in its tracks, there has been a huge implosion in the amount of trading and the secondary market has nearly come to a halt."

HSBC Australia chief economist John Edwards told the conference that local bond markets would not be able to develop as long as restrictions on foreign exchange remained.

"In my mind you cannot hope to issue in your own currencies without relatively free and deep forex markets," Edwards said. *Reuters*

Indonesia to grow 3%-4% in 2002

JAKARTA—Indonesia's frail economy is targeted to grow 3 to 4 percent next year, while the government will implement a swathe of financial and legal reforms as it tries to restore investor confidence, a draft IMF agreement showed.

The document, obtained by Reuters on Thursday and sent by the International Monetary Fund to the government earlier this week, said, on a cash basis, the budget deficit for this year was expected to be less than the 3.7 percent of GDP forecast.

It said the target was to bring inflation down to 9 to 10 percent by the end of 2002. Year-on-year inflation in October was 12.47 percent. The government forecast economic growth in the 2002 budget at 4 percent from 3.5 percent this year.

"The strategy for 2002 recognizes that much remains to be done to restore confidence among domestic and foreign investors," said the draft, which will be discussed in detail by IMF officials visiting Jakarta and key ministers in the coming days.

The draft added that pressure on Indonesia's monetary policy was expected to ease in 2002, although in the short-term the focus would be to control inflation. The central bank had no plan to introduce any new curbs on capital flows, it added.

The draft is expected to form the basis of the fourth letter of intent to Indonesia under a $5-billion IMF loan program. *Reuters*

NEWEST VIDEOGAME CONSOLES

Xbox tops pack in power

Microsoft released its long-awaited Xbox video game system Thursday to much fanfare, and for good reason. Compared to its competition, Sony and Nintendo, the Xbox is the fastest and comes with the most memory.

	Microsoft's Xbox	Sony's PlayStation2	Nintendo's Gamecube
CPU	733 MHz Intel Pentium III	295 MHz Sony chip	485 MHz Power-PC chip
Graphics processor	250 MHz NVIDIA Corp. chip	147 MHz Sony chip	203 Mhz ATI chip
Total memory	64 MB	32 MB	40 MB
Memory bandwidth	6.4 GB/sec	3.2 GB/sec	2.6 GB/sec
Storage	8 GB internal disk	40 GB available	None
Internet enabled	Yes	Upgrade	No
DVD playback	Yes	Yes	No
Price	$299	$299	$199
Approximate games available	15-20	175	5-7

SOURCES: *The companies, compiled from AP wire reports*

AP

US retail sales jump positive

WASHINGTON—A record jump in retail sales in October has surprised analysts and offered hope of a quick recovery for the US economy, showing that consumers resumed spending in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

US retail sales rose a record 7.1 percent in October, helped by big incentives that spurred a 26-percent jump in automobile sales, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

The record increase in October retail sales was the strongest since Commerce began compiling data on its current basis in 1992.

Economists quickly revised their forecasts and said that consumer spending, which represents a hefty two-thirds of US economic activity, might end up being positive in the fourth quarter instead of negative.

"As a result of this data, we believe consumer spending will be up slightly in the fourth quarter rather than down," said Gerald Cohen, a senior economist at Merrill Lynch.

"Though we believe job losses will take a toll and consumer spending will fall in coming months, spending looks like it will be up slightly in the fourth quarter."

Ian Morris, an economist at HSBC Securities, said the report showed that US consumers had got "back up on their feet" after the Sept. 11 terrorist shocks, although he added that it remained unclear whether consumers would rein in spending later.

"These kinds of growth rates would potentially boost fourth quarter GDP (gross domestic product) by 1.5 percent," he said. "But the risk is that it cannibalizes sales from the first quarter."

Economist Melanie Jani at Salomon Smith Barney said the report "indicates that despite the attacks of Sept. 11, rising joblessness and the sharp decline in consumer confidence, Americans still respond to incentives."

"This should lay to rest the argument that Fed easing is ineffective and lead to a recovery in 2002," she added. *AFP*

HP beats income target

PALO ALTO, California—High-tech giant Hewlett-Packard on Wednesday said its fiscal fourth-quarter earnings slid 89 percent from a year ago to $97 million, but topped Wall Street profit forecasts.

That translated to earnings of 19 cents a share, excluding one-time charges, compared to a forecast of 8 cents per share by First Call.

In New York, HP shares jumped $2.24, or 11 percent, to $22.47 in morning trade after the earnings announcement.

Revenues for the quarter ended Oct. 31 slipped to $10.876 billion from $13.295 billion. Revenues were down 18 percent year-over-year or 15 percent, excluding currency effects.

Pro forma earnings excluded a $282-million restructuring charge for workforce reduction, as well as several other items, HP said.

"In a tough environment, we stayed focused on customers and business fundamentals," said Carly Fiorina, chair and chief executive.

"We reduced our cost structure, improved our operational effectiveness and managed inventory aggressively."

Hewlett-Packard said it expected revenues in the first quarter of next year to be "slightly lower" than the fourth quarter figure, citing "normal seasonal effects."

It added that market conditions continued to be difficult, and it did not count on an economic recovery in 2002.

A total of 2,000 jobs remain to be cut from the 6,000 announced in July, the company said. It plans to implement in these the first half of the 2002 fiscal year.

Fiorina reiterated her commitment to the controversial planned merger with rival Compaq, saying it represents "a unique opportunity to move HP into the future and benefit our shareowners, customers and employees."

Several big family shareholders of HP have objected to the merger plans, casting doubt on its approval. *AFP*

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November 15, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

I ONE (1) UNIT 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK
II HANDHELD RADIO TRANCEIVERS
III CONFERENCE ROOM FURNITURES FOR COMMAND CENTER, BLDG. 229, SBFZ
IV MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE CUTTING, TRIMMING, PRUNING OF TREES ENCROACHING OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION LINES

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Products
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **November 23, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.**
Secretary, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

Opec puts ball in rivals' court with oil cut

VIENNA—The Opec oil cartel agreed Wednesday to slash output by more than 6 percent—but only if rival producers would follow suit with a cut of their own in a risky game of brinkmanship that analysts said would keep crude prices weak.

Putting the ball firmly into its rivals' court, the 11-member cartel pledged to skim another 1.5 million barrels a day off production from Jan. 1 if non-Opec producers like Russia, Norway and Mexico pledged to cut by a combined 500,000 bpd.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries "decided to reduce an additional volume of 1.5 million bpd, effective Jan. 1, 2002, subject to a firm commitment from non-Opec producers to cut their production by a volume of 500,000 bpd simultaneously," Opec said in a statement.

The move amounts to a challenge to major oil producers either to pull together, cut production and help rescue prices, which have fallen more than 25 percent in the past two months, or risk a dramatic slump in crude prices.

"They are saying if non-Opec don't move, we won't move and we'll see who blinks first," said analyst Raad Alkadiri of the Washington-based Petroleum Finance Company. "It could turn into an interesting sport."

Oil prices slumped after the Opec move as the market interpreted it more as a game of dare rather than a firm commitment to reduce output. New York futures fell $1.57 to $20.10 in an initial reaction.

Opec, which produces around one-third of the world's crude, had been widely expected to announce the cut, the fourth in a string of reductions this year which has now reduced its stated production by almost 20 percent.

But key ministers are uneasy about slowing the taps again when other independent crude producers are showing no signs of following suit.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, who led calls for Opec to link any cut to cooperation from non-Opec states, insisted the terms of the proposal would be strictly adhered to.

"Our cut depends on their cooperation, a 500,000 barrel cut from non-Opec. Without it, it means we won't do anything," he told reporters.

Opec president Chakib Khelil said he was "100-percent sure" that rival producers would meet Opec halfway and enable the full amount of 2 million barrels to be withheld from the market at the start of 2002.

"We have already an important commitment. They have already pledged a certain amount so it's not going to be a major problem for non-Opec to deliver the 500,000," Khelil told a press conference. "I would say it is 100-percent sure that non-Opec will contribute to the stability of the market."

But he would not be drawn on what would happen if non-Opec does not fall in line. Thus far, independent oil exporters have shown scant signs of wanting to play Opec's game. Russia offered to cut by a meager 30,000 barrels a day—less than 0.5 percent of its total output.

"Thirty thousand barrels out of 7 million, that disappoints anybody. The Russians know that," said Saudi Arabian oil minister Ali al-Nuaimi, the most influential minister in Opec. "Their cooperation is very, very important." *AFP*

Exxon, Aramco to seek OK on China project

BEIJING—Units of international petroleum giants Exxon Mobil and Aramco plan to join with a division of China's state oil company to make chemical components for plastics, the companies reported.

Exxon Mobil China Petroleum and Chemical Co. and Aramco Overseas Co. BV will soon submit their proposal for approval by the Chinese government's State Development Planning Commission, Exxon said in a news release.

The project, signed Wednesday, calls for the companies to invest in a refining and petrochemical project with Fujian Petrochemical, a unit of China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., or Sinopec Corp.

Sinopec is a division of state-owned China Petroleum Corp.

The joint venture will be 50-percent owned by Fujian Petrochemical, with 25 percent each for Exxon Mobil and Aramco.

The project involves the construction of an ethylene steam cracker and polyethylene and polypropylene units. Also included will be chemical derivatives manufacturing units, and distribution and marketing facilities in southeastern China at Fujian Petrochemical's site.

The petrochemical complex will be integrated with Fujian Petrochemical's existing refinery, which will be expanded from 80,000 to 240,000 barrels a day.

Sinopec, partly owned by Exxon and British Petroleum, has signed up with various foreign partners in a bid to boost China's ethylene production to 8 million tons over the next several years. *AP*

Mexico accepts challenge, to cut oil exports

MEXICO CITY—The Mexican government announced late Wednesday that it would cut oil exports "up to 100,000 barrels a day" from Jan. 1 should Opec confirm its conditional output cut and other producer countries do the same.

The announcement seemed to indicate that the country had accepted Opec's challenge to non-member producers to make big cuts in a bid to rescue faltering crude prices.

Mexico, a non-Opec country, "considers a joint effort by oil producers to be necessary to stabilize" the price of the commodity, the energy ministry said in a statement late Wednesday.

"If and when Opec confirms its cutback compromise and other producer countries join the effort, (Mexico) will adjust its export level with a reduction of up to 100,000 barrels a day from Jan. 1," the statement said.

In Vienna earlier Wednesday, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to slash output by more than 6 percent, but only if rival producers follow suit with a cut of their own, a gamble that analysts said would keep prices low.

It pledged to cut production by 1.5 million bpd from Jan. 1 if non-member countries like Russia, Norway and Mexico agreed to a combined cut of 500,000 bpd.

Mexico's oil exports from January to September averaged 1.7 million barrels a day (bpd), meaning the proposed cut would equal about 6 percent of its total production.

It explained its decision to cut exports by noting that "in recent weeks, an important imbalance of supply and demand has emerged."

The ministry said crude oil stocks had reached levels similar to that registered in the third quarter of 1999, when Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela sparked a worldwide movement to cut production in a bid to halt plummeting prices.

"Mexico will pursue close cooperation and consultations in order to contribute to a joint effort by producers as well as consumers to stabilize the international oil market," the statement concluded.

Through last month and despite a drop in oil prices since the Sept. 11 attacks, Mexico had urged caution, saying it was "too soon to adjust export levels."

Last week, Mexican Energy Minister Ernesto Martens hinted there "could be an adjustment," but other government sources said such a decision would have to be linked to Opec moves. *AFP*

JAL, JAS to cut 5,000 jobs

TOKYO—Asia's top carrier, Japan Airlines Co. Ltd., and domestic rival Japan Air System Co. Ltd. will cut their combined workforce by about 10 percent after merging next year, a report said Thursday.

The two carriers, which announced a merger plan Monday to boost business amid weak demand for flights, would reduce payrolls by 5,000 in five years starting September 2002, the Asahi newspaper said without citing sources.

"The companies plan to reduce jobs by hiring fewer people," the daily said. "Every year, about 1,000 JAL employees and about 200 JAS employees resign. (JAL and JAS) plan to limit hiring of new employees to reduce the overall number of staff."

But JAL spokesperson Geoff Tudor dismissed the report as speculative, adding that with the ink still drying on the merger statement, neither firm had started to think about details such as job cuts and restructuring.

"They have just decided on the merger and there are no plans for personnel realignment. People are only just sharpening their pencils," said Tudor. "We have only just established a special task force (to oversee the merger)."

Under a restructuring plan announced in the mid-'90s, Japan's No. 1 airline plans to cut staff levels by 4,200 by March 2003 through natural attrition and a halt on hiring. JAL has a current workforce of 45,319.

Spurred to cut costs further by the dire impact on business of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the carrier said last month a further 600 jobs would go.

The troubled carrier also slashed its full year earnings forecast to a group net loss to March of 40 billion yen ($333 million) against a net profit of 25 billion yen seen in May.

JAL said pre-tax losses would sink to 50 billion yen, against a pre-tax profit of 43 billion yen projected earlier, while revenue would fall to 1,600 billion yen from 1,770 billion yen.

The firm is due to announce interim results later in the day.

Airlines worldwide have lost business since the terror blitz in the United States as hijack-wary travelers shun trips abroad. *AFP*

Qantas to shed jobs due to strike

SYDNEY—Australia's Qantas Airways announced further job cuts Thursday after blaming the slump in the international aviation market for the erosion of passenger numbers along virtually all its key routes.

Australia's biggest airline will jettison up to 2,000 workers, adding further to the 250,000 jobs that the airline says have disappeared around the globe during the past eight weeks.

The carrier's chief executive, Geoff Dixon, said in a statement that as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in Washington and New York, "Qantas would also make further reductions to its international flying, taking the reduction in capacity to around 11 percent."

All Qantas flights to New York will be dropped from the airline's schedule as of Nov. 25, while the number of services to Rome, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Manila and Buenos Aires will be reduced.

Dixon said the carrier would "retire its fleet of five 747-200 aircraft from April next year," or about 18 months earlier than originally planned.

"The events of Sept. 11 have affected services far beyond the United States," Dixon said.

"There has also been a significant downturn for travel to and from Europe, Southeast Asia and Japan.

"Bookings from Japan are down 25 percent and from the United Kingdom 23 percent—some other markets are similarly affected and overall traffic levels have declined market by market between 10 percent and 20 percent."

Almost 80 percent of Qantas' profits last financial year were generated by its international operations.

Meanwhile, several hundred Qantas workers in Melbourne walked off the job shortly after the announcement after trade union officials called a stop-work meeting. *AFP*

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Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all drug manufacturers/suppliers for the bidding of *300,000 blister packs* containing 1 capsule of 450 mg. Rifampicin, 1 tablet of 300 mg. Isoniazid and 1 tablet of 500 mg. Pyrazinamide and *600,000 blister packs* containing 1 capsule of 450 mg. Rifampicin and 1 tablet of 300 mg. Isoniazid. The approved budget for this project is P 8,000,000.00.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 15, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112 A. Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 27, 2001, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 6, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--Nov. 15 & 16, 2001)

Marubeni suffers deep loss

TOKYO—Major Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp. said Thursday it lost 107.0 billion yen ($884.3 million) in the six months to September on global economic woes, restructuring costs and slumping stocks.

The result is far worse than a 6.1-billion-yen profit enjoyed last year.

On a pre-tax basis, Marubeni lost 158.8 billion yen from an 8.8-billion-yen profit while revenue inched up 0.6 percent to 4,525 billion yen.

"Looking at overseas economies in the first half, the slowdown in the US quickly worsened, the tempo of expansion in Europe grew sluggish and Asia generally lacked strength," Marubeni said in a statement.

The company, one of Japan's big five trading houses, booked a 198.5-billion-yen charge for restructuring, a drop in value of equity holdings and fixed assets as well as bad debts.

Under new mark-to-market accounting rules that came into force for the first time over April-September, Japanese firms must evaluate assets at face value rather than the original purchase price.

The Nikkei-225 average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange has shed 25 percent in value over the six months, dragging corporate profit margins down as a result. *AFP*

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2002.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property and Supply Department c/o Ms. Mae Marie E. Hernandez from **November 19, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding holidays and week-ends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 p.m.	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue & Time	Bid Opening	Venue & Time
Janitorial	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 9:00 a.m.
Security	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 1:30 p.m.
Engineering Maintenance	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 3:00 p.m.

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration certificate with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)/DTI business name registration
2. Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
3. BIR value added tax registration
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational Profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statements stamped "received' by the BIR for the last two calendar years

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to waive his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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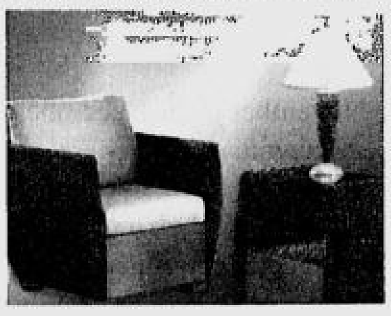

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The APEC Furniture Forum is organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) in cooperation with the Furniture Industry Board Foundation Inc. (FIBFI) and the Deaprtment of Trade and Industry (DTI), and supported by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

LIST OF GUESTS & SPEAKERS
DAY 1 (26 November 2001)

- **Welcome Message:**
  Jose Leo P. Caparas
  National President, Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP)
- **Introduction of the Keynote Speaker:**
  'Mr. Samie Lim
  President, Franchising Corp. of the Philippines
  Director, CFIP
- **Global Furniture Industry Outlook**
  Mr. O. William Fenn
  Chairman Emeritus, North Carolina Home Furnishings Association
- **Country Report: Indonesia**
  "Breaking Down Barriers in the Furniture Industry Supply Chain"
  Mr. Mohamad Djalal Kamal
  Chairman, ASMINDO
- **Malaysian Furniture: A Success Story, How it Grew to a Billion-Dollar Industry**
  Mr. Tan Chin Huat
  Adviser, Malaysian Furniture Industries Council
- **World Furniture Perspective with Focus on Europe**
  Mr. Aurelio Volpe
  Marketing Director, Cali Milano
- **Country Report: Singapore, "An Offshore Economy"**
  Marketing Challenges in the APEC Economies: Furniture Retail Market
  Mr. Jerry Tan
  Executive Committee Member, Singapore Furniture Industries Council
  Chairman, SFIC Overseas Missions Committee
- **Country Report: Japan**
  Japanese Furniture Market & Industry
  Mr. Masahiro Suzuki
  Executive Director, Japan External Trade Organization
- **Country Report: Philippines**
  Mr. Nicolaas K. de Lange
  Executive Director, Furniture Industry Board Foundation, Inc.

DAY TWO (27 November 2001)

- **Strategic Business Options Under Global Recession**
  *** Options of Furniture Manufacturers & Exporters**
  *** Winners & Losers under Global Export Slowdown**
  Dr. Bernardo Villegas
  Dean of School of Economics, University of Asia & Pacific
- **Improving Value to Design and Product Development**
  Prof. Frank Sander
  Industrial Designer, VDID, Germany
- **Information and Technology: Opportunities and Threats for the Furniture Industry (E-Commerce)**
  Dr. Emma Teodoro
  President, Soft Tech Advantage
- **Eco-Labelling: Issues & Concerns**
  Mr. Drajad H. Wibowo
  Executive Director, Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute
- **Country Report: Thailand**
  Voravuth Koopthavonrerk
  Assistant to the Chairman, Thai Furniture Industry Club
- **International Labor Practices for Globalization**
  Atty. Maria Anthonette Allones
  Assistant Secretary, Phil. Department of Labor & Employment
- **Cleaner Production for the Furniture Industry**
  Dr. Olivia La'O Castillo
  President & Board of Trustee
  Asia Pacific Round Table for Cleaner Production
- **Wrap up activities and Synopsis**
  Joseph N. Pangilinan
  General Manager, Manilapearl Corporation

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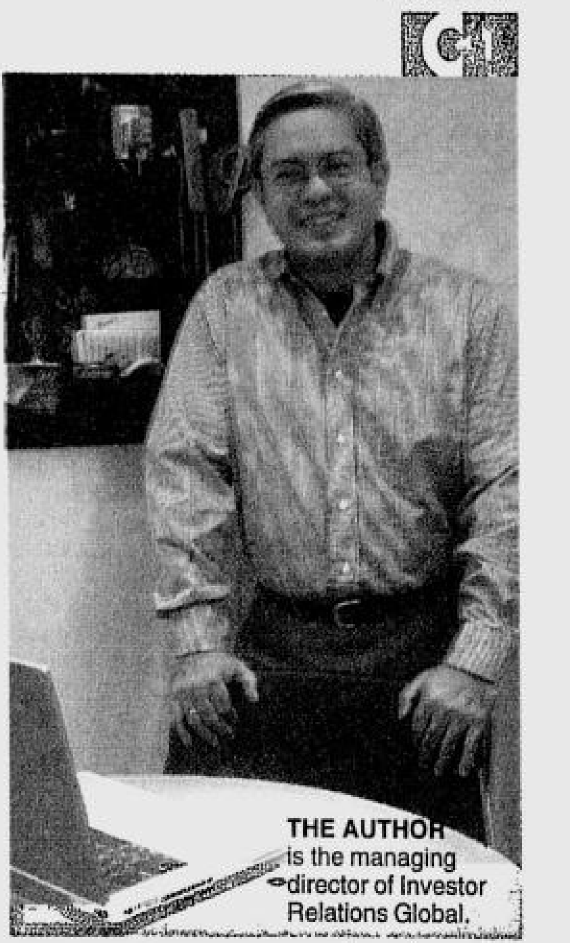
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0654 Series of 2001

BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Making altruistic marketing work

BY ANGEL L. BUÑAG



THE AUTHOR is the managing director of Investor Relations Global.

SOCIALLY Responsible Investing (SRI) is as critical to poverty alleviation in the country as Socially Responsible Marketing (SRM) is designed to be.

In fact, both are intertwined because they are borne out by corporations and institutions with similar visions and values. SRI and SRM are expressions of corporate policies aimed primarily at helping out in communities where companies operate.

Several examples of SRIs given by SSS chair Corazon dela Paz at the 4th Asian CEO's Policy Roundtable Conference include the following programs developed by Philippine Geothermal Inc., Central Azucarera de Don Pedro and Negros Navigation Co.:

- building schools and roads;
- upgrading water systems;
- underwriting child care, health and education;
- samahang nayons;
- credit cooperative programs;
- livestock and group vegetable production;
- community credit facilities designed to encourage repayment.

The SSS chair also cited cases abroad like S.C. Johnson's renowned policy and programs of making the company "a neighbor of choice wherever they operate." This earned for the firm one of the highest recognition for perceived social responsibility in a recent Harry Interactive survey of 26,000 consumers.

While both SRI and SRM concern themselves with most aspects of business—from operations to products to stakeholder relationships—SRM is distinctively different in that it is made an inherent part of the business process or activity that creates, develops and maintains markets.

In the Philippine context, SRIs and SRMs traditionally address the poverty issue.

Sept. 11 tsunami

Various private sector initiatives, community relations programs and NGOs are effectively chipping away at the problem of poverty incidence in the Philippines. The challenge is already formidable as it is with more Filipinos joining the ranks of an estimated 60 to 70 percent (31.8 percent in 1997 per the National Statistical Coordination Board) living below the poverty line —"barely maintaining their physical existence."

But the Sept. 11 World Trade Center disaster of New York is a tsunami that will even more dramatically blow up the extent of poverty in the Philippines. What we will be contending with is a global recession and this will exacerbate further the

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3114, Series of 2001

RP FRANCHISORS GO INTERNATIONAL

Expanding overseas by using somebody's cash

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT'S A SAD truth but close to seven out of 10 companies in the Philippines inevitably close shop just five years after they open.

It may be because of the wrong business plan, the lack of resources or the dearth of management expertise, but the result is always the same—massive losses of time, effort and hard-earned capital.

In contrast, nine out of 10 franchised businesses succeed in the same period.

Francorp., the world's largest franchise consulting firm, attributes this to the tried and tested marketing and administrative plans that the franchisor or the company offering the franchise has in place.

At the same time, franchisors offer continual training and support to the franchisees, further boosting their chances of success. They offer their full support to their partners as their success means success of the master company.

Many Philippine companies choose the franchising method to expand their business as it gives them the chance to expand their operations quickly by using somebody else's cash. At the same time, the franchisees become part of a big business that has already proven their worth in the competitive business world.

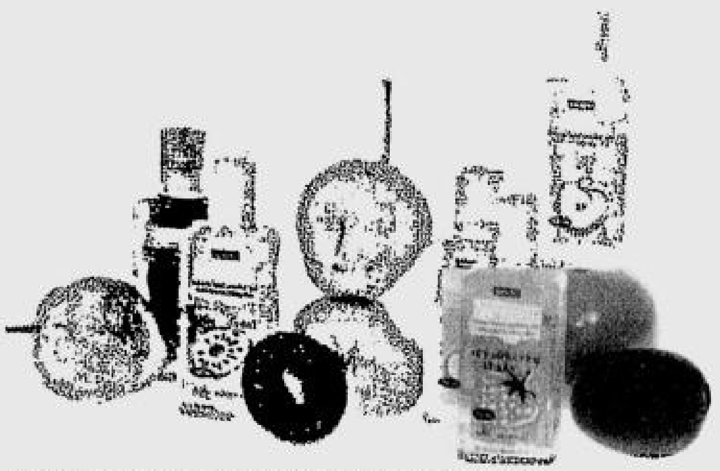
With their systems and operations firmly under their control, a number of Philippine companies have expanded their operations abroad.

Jollibee Corp.

Jollibee is one of the Philippines' phenomenal business success stories, particularly in the area of franchising.

Starting as a two-branch ice cream parlor in 1975, it later expanded its menu to include hot sandwiches and other meals. With encouraging success, Jollibee was incorporated in 1978, with a network that had grown to seven outlets to fully explore possibilities of a hamburger fast-food chain. Through franchising, the fast-food chain eventually revolutionized the fast-food industry. Today, over 60 percent of its network are operated by franchisees.

JOLLIBEE targets the huge Filipino community abroad



BENCH has diversified into personal care products

The foundation for growth has been the strategy to establish dominant market coverage complemented by its menu line, creative marketing and advertising program, and efficient manufacturing and logistics facilities.

It is powered by a team of well-trained individuals who are one in the vision to grow the company into the country's premiere fast-food chain. It has grown its network to over 400 Jollibee branches, 192 Greenwich, 170 Chowking, 15 Delifrance and 26 restaurants overseas.

Jollibee's vision is to become a leading international food service organization in the Asia-Pacific, saying there are few businesses that have the potential to be a major international brand.

Jollibee is on the way there with franchises in Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam, Saipan, Guam, UAE, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the US.

Jollibee encourages Filipinos and foreign entrepreneurs to try franchising as it offers an exciting mix of profitability and provides much needed employment to Filipinos.

The fast-food chain initially caters to the large Filipino communities living abroad, but Jollibee is confident that the combination of its service and food served fast, hot and with a smile will also appeal to the foreign market.

Bench

Retail company Bench, the registered trademark of the Philippines' Suyen Corp., has taken the crowded local retail market by storm with its affordable yet classy line of shirts, trousers and later fashion accessories, toiletries and underwear.

Bench got several awards both in the Philippines and abroad, for its advertising campaign and the quality of its goods. The Philippine Retailers Association named it the Retailer of the Year in 1997 and 1998, and it was named the Most Promising Franchise of the Year by the Philippine Franchiser Association in 1999.

The first Bench boutique opened in 1987, and its branches now extend nationwide as well as in Asia and the Middle East.

The phenomenal success of Bench is a result of continuous adherence to a simple vision: to offer premium quality products at affordable prices.

The Bench lifestyle includes a teen line, Bench Brats, the Bench Body and Bath line of fragrances and bath produces, Prescribe and Zui skincare products and Bench Bytes snacks. It also added a junior ladies' line, HerBench and HerBench Colors.

Its wide product line has appealed to both the Filipino teen and young adult markets as well as foreigners who get the chance to sample its products, prompting Suyen's executive creative director and founder Ben Chan to explore expansion plans overseas.

These products are distributed primarily through boutiques, franchise outlets and concessionaires within department stores. The grooming and body care products are also sold in supermarkets, pharmacies, drugstores and convenience stores.

Bench's network already includes 168 wholesalers throughout the country of which 25 are under a franchise arrangement.

Penshoppe

Another retail firm that is eyeing expansion here and abroad through franchising is Penshoppe, a popular fashion brand of teenagers.

Penshoppe operated by Cebu-based Golden ABC Inc. has 100 company-owned retail stores and 400 outlets all over the Philippines. It was named last year's Most Outstanding Filipino Retailer and has decided to roll out its franchising program before the end of the year.

Golden ABC feels that it is the right time to go into franchising as it is the fastest way for the flagship Penshoppe and sister brand Oxygen to go international.

Golden ABC ventured into the garment business in 1986 and is engaged in the marketing and retailing of ready-to-wear garments for the Philippine market.

Its Penshoppe brand enjoys market dominance in the teen set and its new brand Oxygen is making waves in its own market.

The company's vision is to provide Filipinos with clothing brands that live up to international standards of quality, design and value for money, backed by a strong faith in God and belief in the capabilities of Filipinos.

Golden ABC is confident that it would be able to successfully penetrate foreign markets because of the strong brand positioning and the firm grasp on the teenage market.

It has already received a number of inquiries even before the franchising program has even been completed. Some even came from as far as Ukraine and Botswana.

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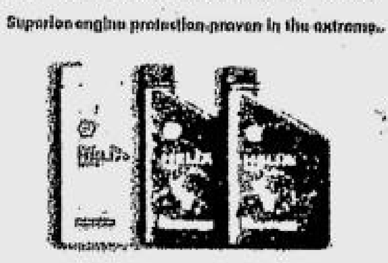


A large percentage of Philippine roads are paved with asphalt. When the temperature rises, the road turns into one big grill. This makes your car's engine heat up faster. And when this happens, the engine oil suffers. That is why Shell, together with Ferrari developed Helix. Even in extreme conditions in Formula 1 racing or Metro Manila heatwaves, Helix stays calm. And the calmer it stays, the better it protects your engine. So when the competition heats up, Helix is the perfect cooler.

Shell Helix. Available in three cool variants, Super, Plus and Ultra.

Catfish, oysters make cash registers ring

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The most in-demand "restaurant" in town isn't glamorous but you find the rich and tourists there competing for eating space with regular employees, *manongs* and *manangs* from nearby towns as well as car wash boys.

You wonder why they flock to this dusty, makeshift *turo-turo* (small eatery) that has metamorphosed into a restaurant manned by food servers wearing everyday clothes. You can distinguish them only by their harried looks.

"Nato and Helen Talabahan and Pantatan," as a restaurant name may sound whimsical but this makeshift eating place of 70 to 80 tables at Jalandoni Extension, Bolilao in Iloilo City's Mandurriao District has captured the taste buds of many a discriminating Ilonggo and his visitors.

Renato "Nato" and Helen Robles, both 42 and accidental restaurant owners, shun publicity or marketing gimmicks because first of all, their restaurant stands on government land and they have their hands full with a place filled to overflowing.

It was almost 1:30 p.m., decidedly past lunchtime and yet, Helen had to stand up and bark orders every now and then even as this interview was taking place.

"This place started as a sari-sari store in 1997 after I came back from a three-year stint in Singapore. Then, our nearby car wash became successful and was soon filled with hungry drivers. That gave me the idea to cook for them—scrambled eggs, corned beef and other ready-to-eat stuff," said Helen in Hiligaynon.

Brisk sales

She then told her husband Nato to sell one sack of *talaba* (oysters) near the car wash and that too was gone in an hour. Then came barbecue, rice and other Ilonggo home-cooked delicacies.

It helped the couple's business that Jalandoni Extension was one of the side roads leading to a major mall and depot for provincial jeepneys and buses. But even while other urban poor had the same idea as Helen and Nato, theirs were not as successful.

The key to success, it turned out, was the authentic Ilonggo cooking that Nato specialized in.

"*Nami gid si Nato mag luto* (Nato cooks very well)," said Helen.

"Nato didn't study cooking. He's just good at mixing ingredients and coming up with that particular flavor that sells. I don't know how he does it. His most flavorful dish is the boneless bangus—but that's according to me," said Helen, with a laugh.

Sold at half the price of other established restaurants with the same fare, food at Helen and Nato's is quality controlled by Nato who buys the fresh seafood, pork and other ingredients.

They also breed their own *pantat* (catfish) in a half-hectare *pantatan* (catfish farm) in Zarraga town. The charcoal-broiled *pantat* is in fact, one of the first "attractions" of Nato and Helen when they first started their restaurant.

Cheap, hearty food

If Helen would have it, all of their foods are bestsellers. *Adobong umbok* (quail) has its loyal customers and a visitor shouldn't go without tasting the *tinuom nga manok* or native chicken wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in a clay pot over low heat.

Nato's boneless bangus sells for only P75 while succulent *talaba* goes for P25 a serving. A person's P300 can go a long way at Helen and Nato's.

As much as the couple would like to improve their restaurant and make it presentable for the steady stream of tourists and even basketball stars and actors, they could not because it sits on government land.

"We are just waiting to be evicted, that's why we cannot improve," said Helen.

Helen and Nato's success story has spawned imitations and more than 10 such restaurants since 1999 have sprung up in Jalandoni Extension, formerly a swampland.

Though not doing sales as brisk as that of the "pioneer," they manage to earn decent income from those who can't find a seat at "Nato and Helen Talabahan and Pantatan."

ARNOLD ALMACEN

THE MOST in-demand eating place in Iloilo City sits at the side of the road on government land.

Making . . .

(From page C1)

conditions and patterns that give rise to the incidence of poverty.

The World Bank estimates that as much as 100,000 human lives will be lost as a result of starvation and diseases should there be a recession.

Fighting poverty is fighting terrorism. That is a compelling reason for companies to invest time, effort and money in helping eradicate this root cause of many evils.

The conditions now call for a more direct intervention by well-meaning corporations if the communities they serve are to survive. For those who have not seen the light, now is the time to do an SRI.

Considering dimensional differences between Socially Responsible Investing and Socially Responsible Marketing, an enhanced SRM should be added to existing SRI programs since:

- SRMs reach out to larger mass markets compared to SRI's specific community targets;
- SRMs ride on a company's countrywide network and would therefore have a better way of generating resources and/or delivering the benefits;
- SRMs are inherent to a business and will therefore be part of the daily grind.

Companies embarking on an SRM are able to make a dent on poverty because of built-in advantages like creating a multiplier effect by being able to expand the effort outside the company to a wider base giving more people the opportunity to be involved in helping others.

Also SRMs will not unduly burden the companies in a downturn economy because more hands and resources are involved allowing more SRM projects to be created with more and more beneficiaries addressed.

1st e-Bank's HOPE

On July 20, 1st e-Bank president and CEO Carlos A. Pedrosa announced publicly an altruistic CASA (current account and savings account) project that serves as a vehicle for mass public participation in the fight against poverty and environmental degradation. These are twin social issues which 1st e-Bank considers as the greatest threat to national security.

1st e-Bank's marketing promo to "Help Our Poor and the Environment" or "HOPE" cut a new path in Socially Responsible Marketing.

HOPE is targeted at prospective depositors in the middle market who will open a CASA. For every average daily balance of P1,000, 1st e-Bank donates P3 in the depositor's behalf to the fight against poverty and the preservation of the natural habitat for the Philippine's wildlife.

The uniqueness of 1st e-Bank's HOPE is that:

- HOPE is a first in SRMs by combining the twin social issues of poverty and the environment. This puts HOPE in the mainstream of international trends with institutions such as the Asian Development Bank establishing a framework for corporate social responsibility: "the creation of mechanisms that would alleviate poverty as they provide impetus in promoting sustainable environment projects and vice versa."
- HOPE is highly focused on life and growth; it calls for affirmative action in support of providing for a future for the marginalized, exploited and abused Filipino children and a preserved habitat for the security and growth of Philippine wildlife.

HOPE is an initiative of a financial institution and what better entity can help generate and channel financial aid to alleviate poverty than a bank?

1st e-Bank did not attempt to reinvent the wheel. It chose two existing organizations with track records as the beneficiaries of the HOPE project—The Ahon Bata sa Lansangan (ABSL) and the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

ABSL is one of the laudable and comprehensive social development initiatives of Ahon Bayan which addresses the welfare of poor and abused children who try to survive in sordid environments as a result of rapid urbanization and population growth;

The PEF program is focused on the alleviation of human poverty in the uplands through enterprise development and capability building;

The HOPE SRM had support befitting a marketing campaign—raffles and print ads, events.

Improving the numbers

SRMs are more effective if other marketing projects run parallel with it:

- Critical mass is established when two or more campaigns are ongoing with an SRM;
- Cross-fertilization is possible when, in 1st e-Bank's case, the high net-worth individuals of the 1st e-Class Raffle Promo II and the dynamic "text generation" market of "Smart Na, Libre Pa Part III" may well be HOPE campaign participants as well.

This can be one formula that ensures the success of an SRM, especially if it is wedged in between two marketing campaigns that are proven effective.

The desired customer response would then be—"if I can come in and join the 1st e-Class Promo Part II or the "Smart Na Libre Pa Part III," it would be nice to set aside a little fund for the benefit of the poor and the environment—why not?"

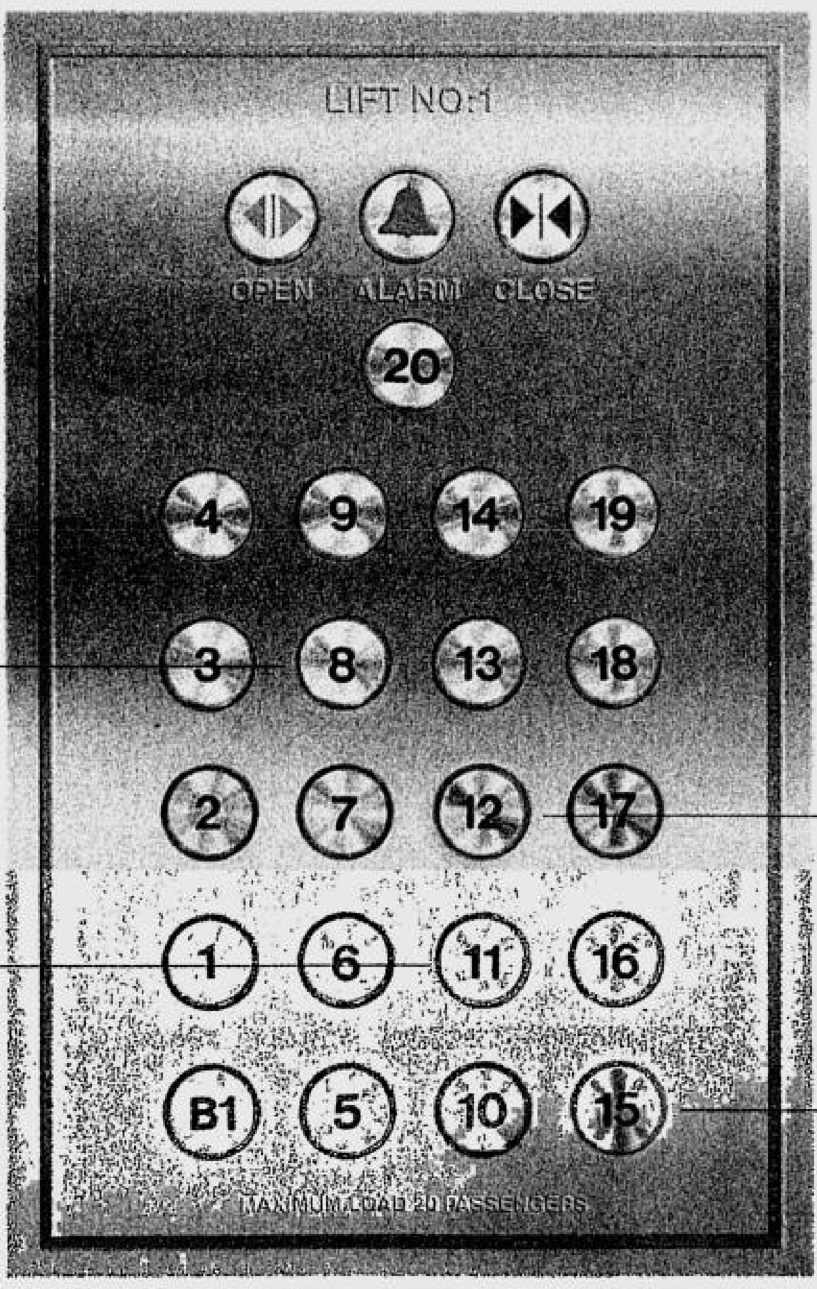
In effect, it truly becomes a vehicle for public participation in protecting crucial national interests.

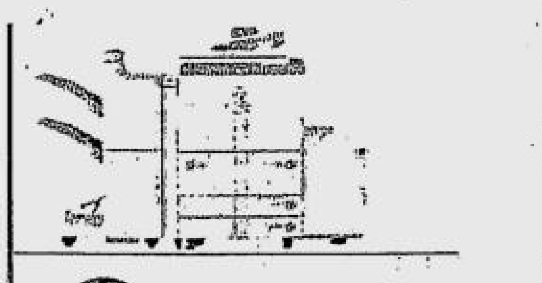
In helping others, you help yourself

The badly hit economy and the resulting dismal market conditions are compelling reasons for companies to do what's best: help their customers (because in so doing, they also help themselves).

In a world where practically all businesses are largely flat (if not downright at the bottom), the marketplace becomes a leveled playing field. Competition may be drastic but is there anything to compete about?

Comes the time again to restructure and to mobilize scarce capital to regenerate. Socially responsible investing and marketing is the way to go.





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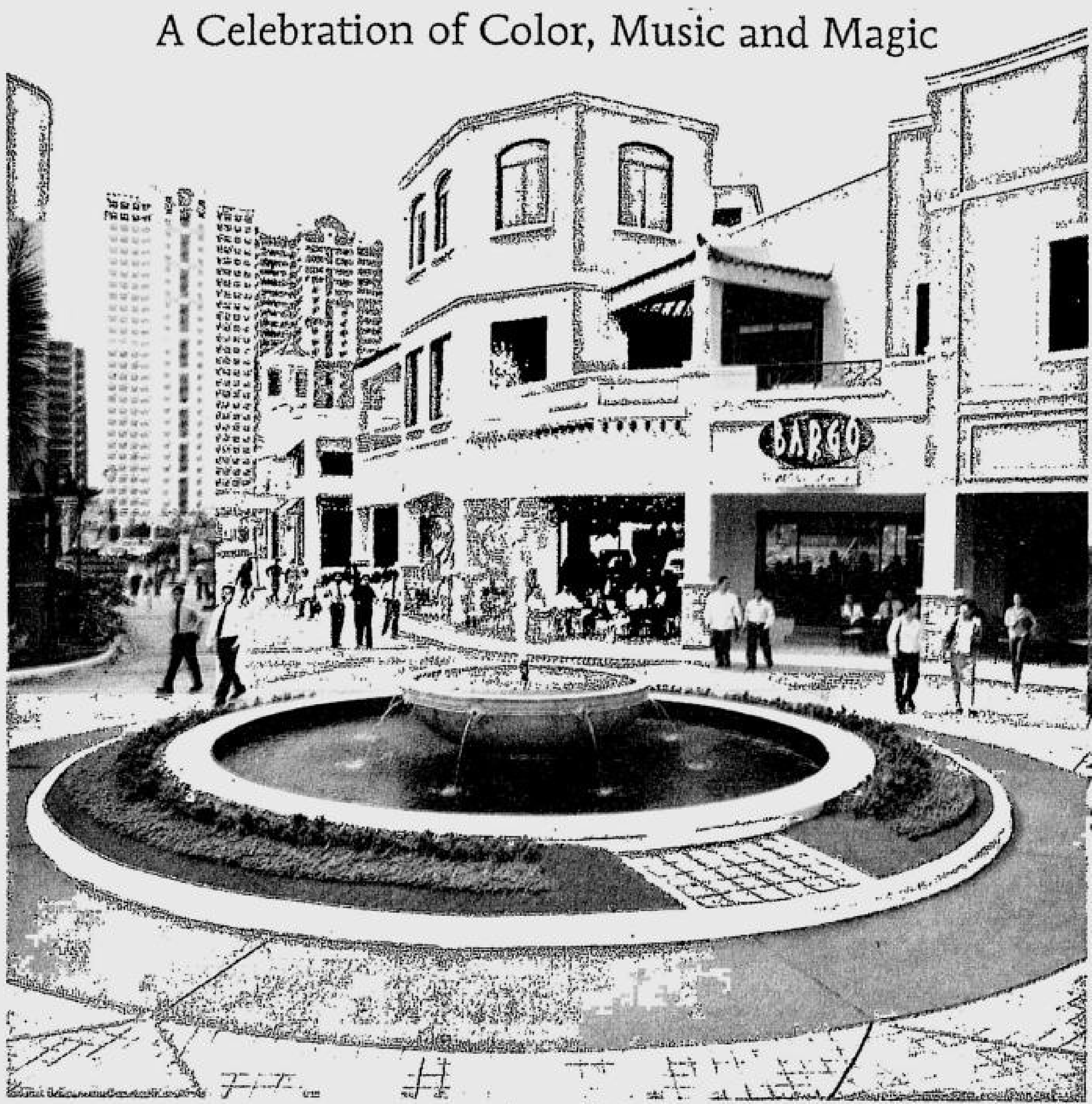

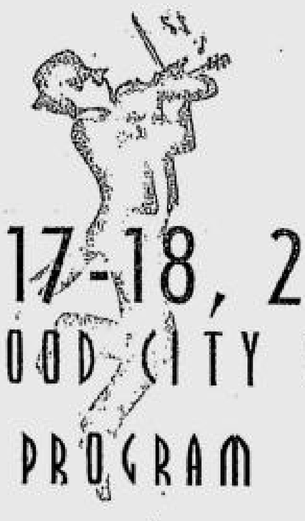

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Davao awaits SM opening

DAVAO CITY—All roads would lead to SM City Davao tomorrow as the Shoemart group prepares for the opening of its first mall in Mindanao.

The 76,000-square-meter, three-level mall will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment package to Davao, as shown in the mix of about 200 of the best retailers from Manila, Cebu and Davao.

As in other SM malls, the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Food Court and six state-of-the-art cinemas would be the anchor stores.

Located at the 13-hectare site Ecoland in Barangay Matina, Davao City, the mall's opening is an awaited event in Davao City and in nearby provinces.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant in Mindanao and chair of the Mindanao Economic and Development Council, says that the coming in of SM is "a manifestation of their confidence in a stable city like Davao and is also an indicator of a vibrant economy."

Sonia Garcia, the Department of Tourism regional director for Region XI, says that SM City Davao's opening is good both for the economy and tourism. She says that the SM management "did something positive for Mindanao, and its opening is a wonderful opportunity for us Mindanaoans."

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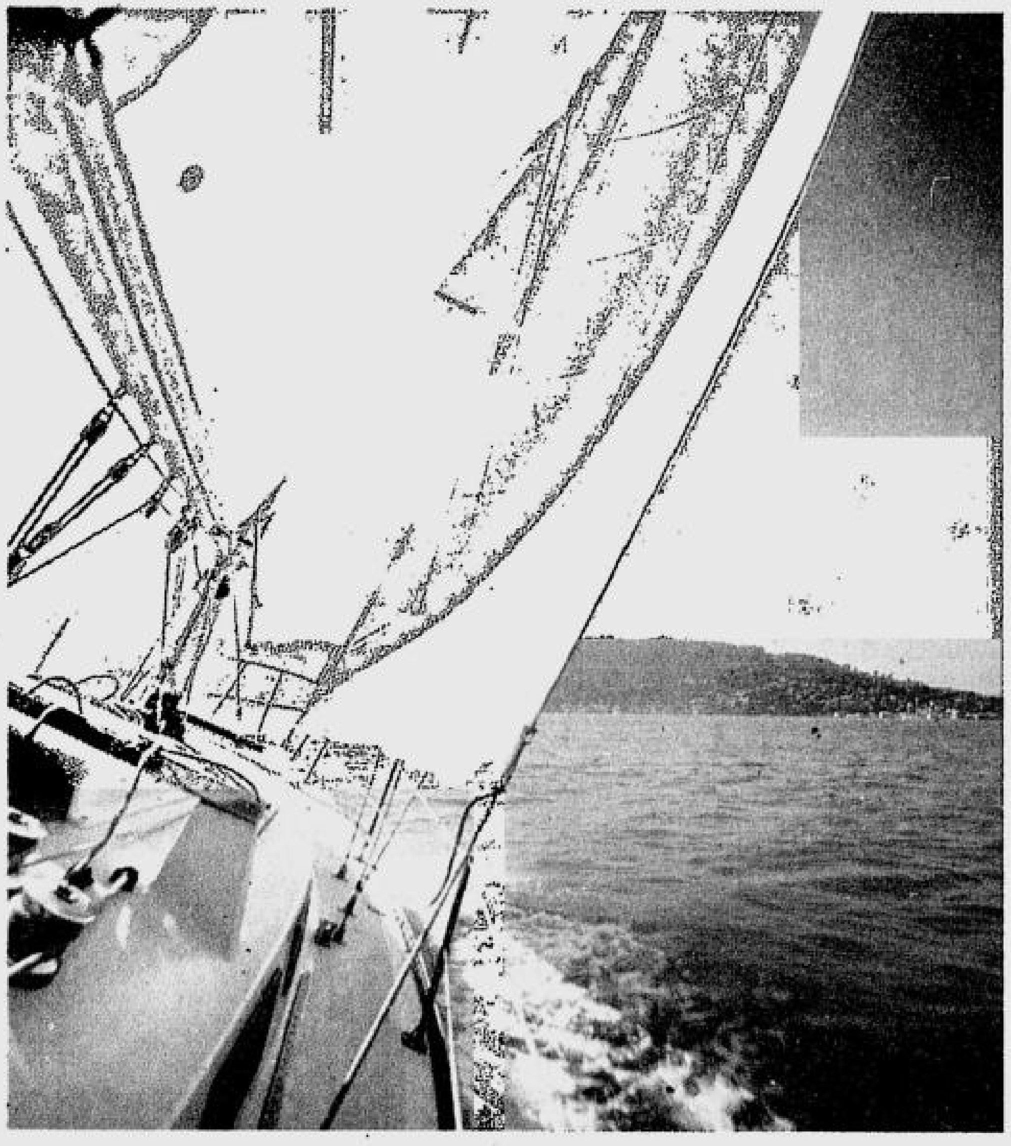

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LIFESTYLE
Trend Spotting
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

Black does it all

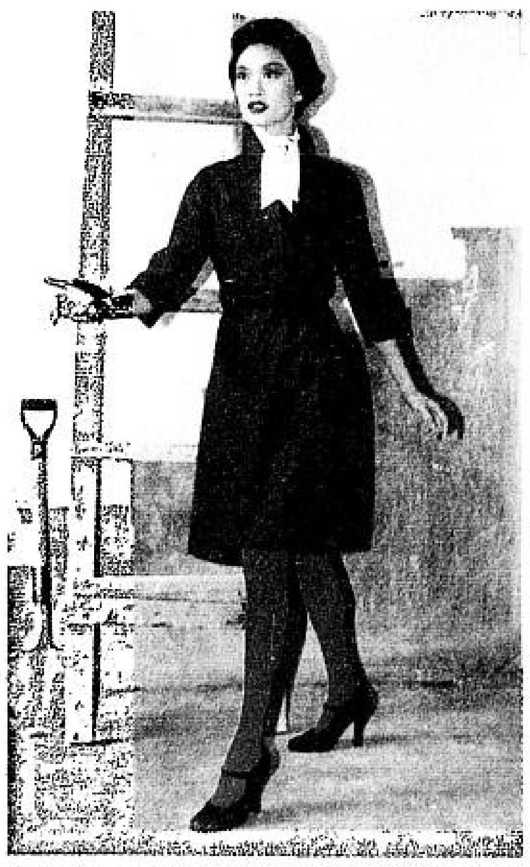
Tina Maristela-Ocampo brings some twists to the predictable black wardrobe

MANNISH LOOK. A white shirt and pants evokes strength and finesse. Combined with this black tie and blazer, the look becomes classic. A striped bow adds a whimsical touch.

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

IN THE PAST 11 years, Tina Maristela-Ocampo's The Black Shop (TBS) has captured the market of working women. The clothes are made in the region, some by the same makers of the famous Theme label. The pricing strategy is cheaper than other local brands. Because of its success, there are plans to open three more outlets this year.

BLACK/p.D2



THE CHARCOAL trench coat is hard-edged and strong. It gives the message of permanence and solidity. It also serves as a foundation for a working wardrobe. The white cravat gives it elegance. For the daring, bright-red stockings make an interesting accessory.

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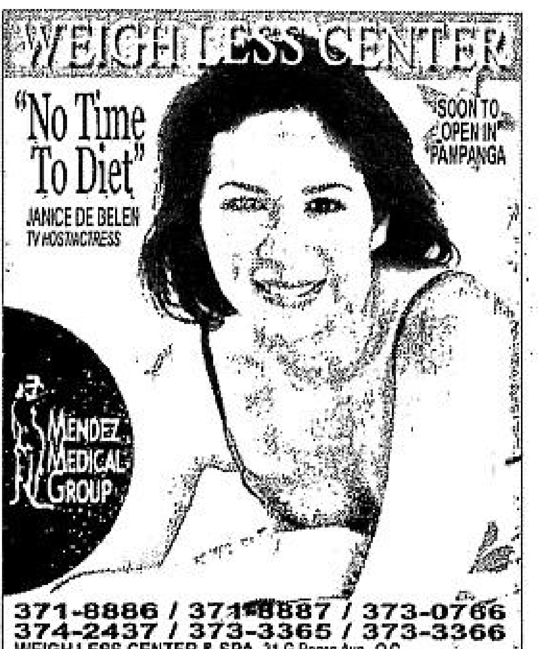

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HINT: Check out *Trend Spotting Section* on Friday, November 16 for Inquirer's My Wish Box.

FOR CASUAL FRIDAYS. This green cardigan and magenta floral-printed skirt and pink stockings make a bold color statement. They flatter dark skin tones.

SOFT LOOK. Paleness makes the area where the pale pink top and neutral skirt meet less distinct. Pink conveys a sweet nature.

Black does it all

(From page D1)

Tina's mission is to bring fun into the staid corporate wardrobe. The model-turned-entrepreneur finds it a challenge to dress up the conservative Filipina. Just like the Filipino male, the average working woman will stick to the dark colors with classic lines to convey competence and authority.

The typical Filipina favors simple clothes and eschews prints or embroidery in the workplace to convey trustworthiness. She'll avoid bright colors and bold accessories because it might send the wrong message that she's clowning with her image. Wearing accessories that draw attention to yourself instead of reinforcing your look as a pro is a no-no.

Maristela-Ocampo, being an Aquarian, likes to defy conventions—well, just a little bit. Why not add a printed skirt to perk up a sea of navy and black on casual Fridays? Why not add a fun accessory so as not to project that you're too serious or afraid to enjoy life.

For this shoot, we exaggerated the details. In real life, you don't normally wear smoky eye shadow or open-toed shoes to work. If your boss or HRD manager sees you in the big teased hair, you'll have to flatten it with gel or pull it neatly into a ponytail. Creative directors or PRs can get away with bright-colored stockings, but not in the hotel and banking communities.

Once in a while, there's no grave harm in bending the rules.

Here are some suggestions

MODEL: MARINA BENIPAYO
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY LOURD RYAN RAMOS
FOR EMPHASIS SALON
SHOES: JILL STUART, MIX GREENBELT

BLUE works best with primary colors such as this black-and-white sash and contrasting red blouse. For fun, accentuate with a lariat.

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Fashion and design group to hold annual contest

THE FASHION and Design Council of the Philippines will hold its annual contest for aspiring designers on Nov. 20 at the NBC Tent, The Fort.

Organized with the Garments and Textile Export Board, the event will present the competition for young designers, the FDCP Trend Show and a lifestyle exhibit.

The Philippine Fashion and Design Competition is a yearly search for five finalists who will compete in the Concours International des Jeunes Creatures de Mode, a global contest for amateur designers. It will be held in Paris on Dec. 13. A special award will be given to a winner—a study grant from the La Salle College of Canada.

The contestants underwent a mentorship program conducted by Joji Lloren, who finished a fashion design study grant in Paris after winning the 1999 Paris competition. He guided them in fabrication and construction. The courses also instilled punctuality and discipline in the students.

"The mentorship program is quick education. It's not enough," says FDCP president Lulu Tan-Gan. For years, the Council has been batting for formal education in fashion. It hopes to develop a new generation of professionally trained designers.

Fashion education courses include the two-year certificate course of the Philippine School of International Fashion and the College of St. Benilde. The oldest program is the University of the Philippines' Clothing Technology, which focuses on textiles and production.

When the Council held a contest to design the uniforms of the policemen, the members campaigned in schools. The results were very encouraging. The winner was Reian Kagahastian.

The FDCP's vision is to develop a fashion industry that is closely tied with manufacturers, textile makers and retailers. It wants to develop a distinct Filipino identity in fashion, which is called "branding."

On the same evening of the contest, the FDCP Trend Show will be held to focus on Manila wear. Unlike other shows that present a designer's individual vision, the show will adhere to global trends and consumer acceptance.

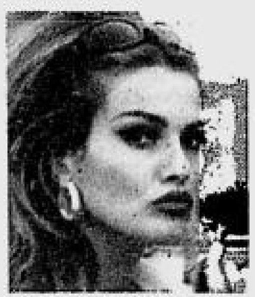
In keeping with the worldwide trends of promoting a lifestyle instead of merely showcasing products, there will also be a lifestyle exhibit, featuring the looks for Spring/Summer 2002: ethnic chic, white on white, Asian fusion, aerodynamics, reactive and romantic.

Tan-Gan says that the French government recently sent a fashion education consultant to survey the scene. The visitor observed that despite the creativity of the Filipinos, textile makers, manufacturers and designers seem to be going their own way instead of collaborating under an umbrella federation. To develop a fashion industry, there has to be a tie-up with these three sectors to produce regular events and trend shows.

Since its inception, the FDCP has been creating more awareness of the need to improve the design field. It has organized mentorship programs and short courses on fashion and merchandising. It has impressed upon students that there is a future in fashion.

Tan-Gan says the options are many—designing, buying, merchandising, retailing, styling, production management, specialization in accessories, textiles or costumes, quality control and entrepreneurship.

Supermodel raped by a royal?


KAREN Mulder

SUPERMODEL Karen Mulder has been involved in a scandal, allegedly committed by a blueblood from Monaco, reported the weekly journal France Dimanche, in its Nov. 9 edition.

It all started with an article in the journal Marianne. It related that during the taping of an episode of the bimonthly television show "Tout Le Monde En Parle," hosted by popular TV host Thierry Ardisson, Dutch supermodel Mulder revealed she was raped in Monte Carlo by a "crowned member of Monaco royalty." Although the show was never televised, someone managed to acquire a copy and circulated the program on the Internet.

Asked to comment on the article, Marc Babrouski, the assistant of the (Monaco) palace spokesman Armand Deus, had only a phrase to say: "Her statement should not be taken seriously considering her disturbed psychological state."

Prince Rainier, already harrassed by an anthrax scare in Monte Carlo and also by the state of his health, is reported to be anguished by this recent event.

Mulder, 27, is the blonde blue-eyed model of Guess?. Born in Rotterdam, Holland, she entered the Elite Modeling Agency's Look of the Year contest and emerged runner-up.

The 5'10" beauty was discovered by Paul Marciano, president and creative director of Guess? Inc. Currently with Aline Souliers Model Management, she lives in Monaco but flies to New York. She has a Karen doll and a Karen Mulder Beauty CD-ROM and her own video. She is one of Victoria's Secret's signature models.

Claudine Barretto

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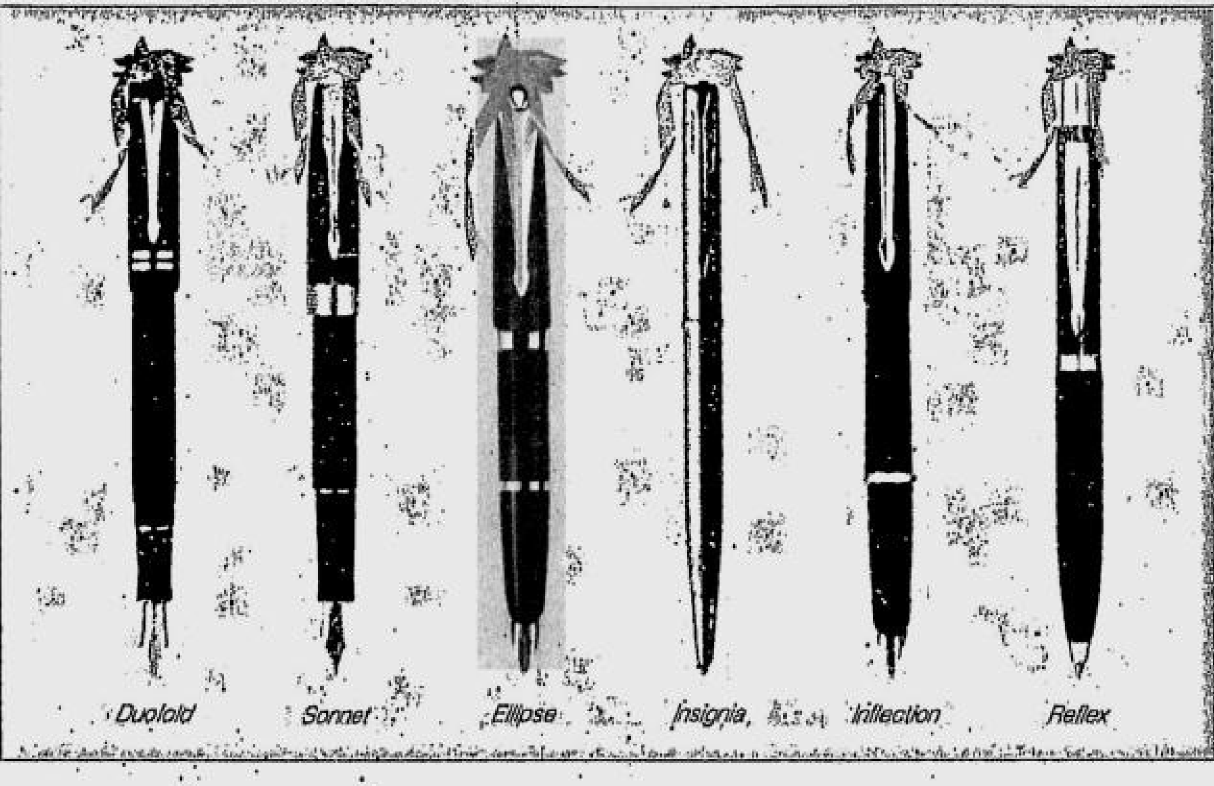
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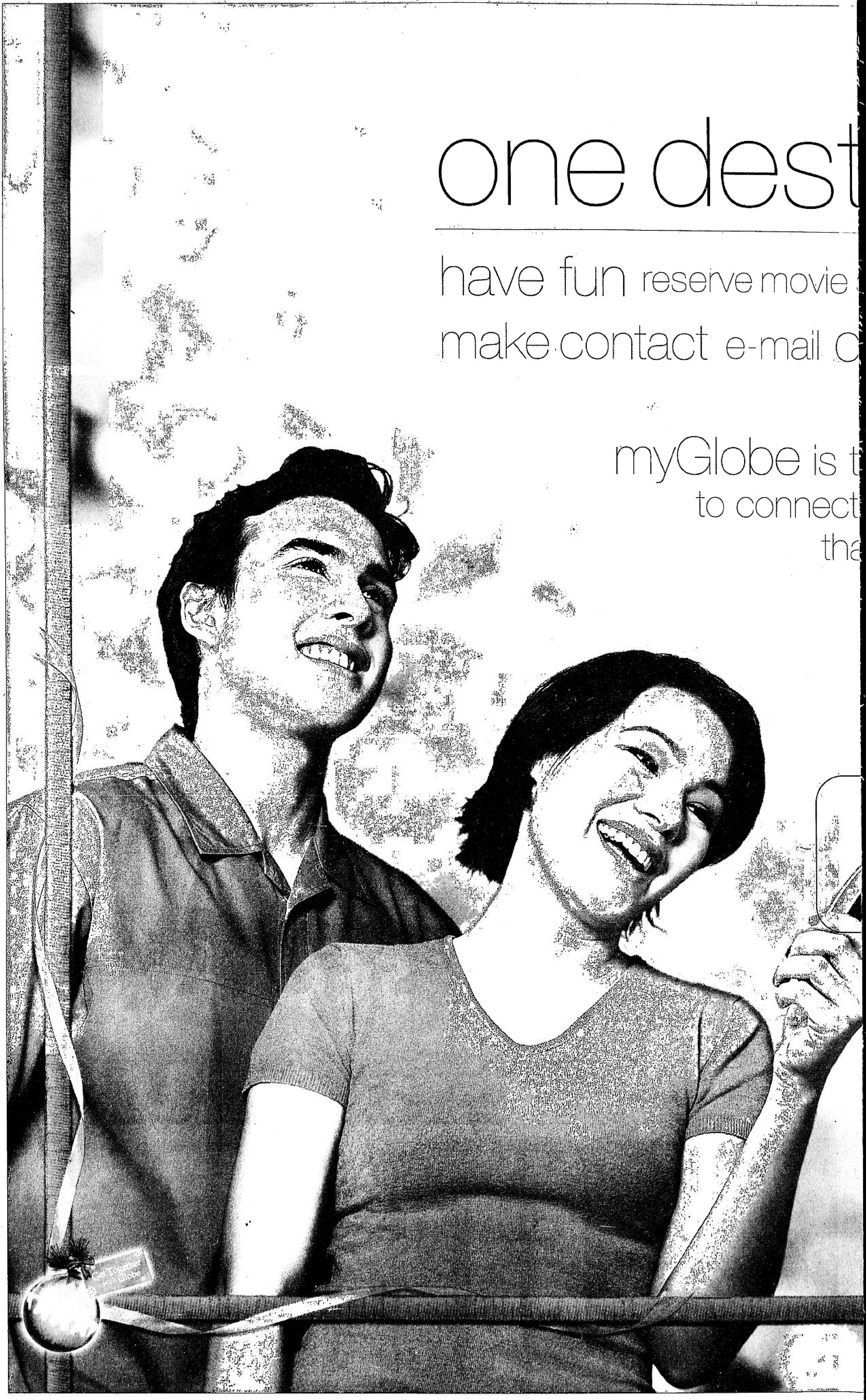
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LUCRECIA Kasilag

Mav Rufino's inner vision and her crowd-drawing power

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY RAUL TEEHANKEE

THREE National Artists, Lucrecia King Kasilag, Leonor Goquingco and Arturo Luz; two senators, Manny Villar and Serge Osmeña; Ambassadors to the Philippines from Germany, Japan, Canada; bankers led by her husband, Bangko Sentral governor Rafael Buenaventura; and over a hundred of Manila's movers and shakers attended Maria Victoria Rufino's 12th solo exhibition of mixed-media paintings at the Gallery of the Peninsula Manila last Wednesday.

The power crowd bought out all 35 artworks on sale (ranging from P25,000-40,000). They ranged from watercolor paintings to soft funrishings such as a papillon lamp, an umbrella, a one-

MAV/p. D7

MON Arcenas of Banco Filipino poses beside his Mav's artwork purchase.

BUENAVENTURA siblings, CB governor Rafael, Eliza and Chito Buenaventura with Mav

MUNDING and Zita Feliciano

CHARLIE Zamora and Marilou Prieto

CYNTHIA Villar and Kaye Jimenez

BAMBINA and Cesar Buenaventura

PAY and Bing Rufino, Brent Lim; Michelle and BR Lim with Bryan

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THE OFFICERS and members of the board of directors of the Zonta Club of Manila I Foundation Inc. led by its president, Baby Perez-Sison. Clockwise: Menchu Pascual, Banjo Dumlao, Nonie Basilio, Lalin Basilio, Perez-Sison, Dory Zalamea, Lulu Castañeda, Nida Lopez; center, from left, Pie Puno and Gina Geraldez

Zonta Club to hold bazaar on Nov. 25

THE ZONTA Club of Manila will hold the International Bazaar 2001 on Nov. 25 at the Rigodon and Garcia Villa Rooms of The Peninsula Manila.

Some 140 concessionaires will be selling a wide variety of local and imported books, jewelry, décor, ceramics, clothing, accessories, handicrafts, house wares and food stuff. Special items will be flown in from abroad exclusively for the bazaar.

Baby Perez-Sison, Zonta president, has a dynamic team of ladies to ensure the success of the Bazaar. Cochairs Mina Gabor, Menchu Pascual and Evelyn Duran will take charge of concessionaires; Nida Lopez, Evangeline Dumlao, Pie Puno and Chit Reodica (raffle prizes); Mel Reyes, Fely Umandap and Arlene Gisbert (physical arrangements); and Diana Franco, Dory Zahmea, Gina Geraldez, Lalin Basilio and Toni Lingad (ticket sales).

Call 892-0834, fax 752-7238 or call Menchu Pascual at 637-7926, fax 634-4888.

MARY Anne Tinio with Fely and Melissa Sawit

SUSING and Maritess Pineda with Johnny Santos, top man of Nestlé Phils.

GINA Tambunting-Roxas, Karen Santos and Bea Zobel Jr.

Mav Rufino's inner vision . . .

(From page D6)

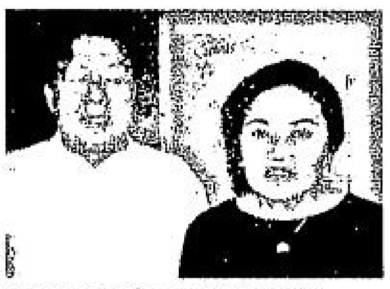
of-a-kind love seat and a three-panel screen divider titled "Afterglow."

Mav looked radiant and feminine in her fuchsia strapless gown by Rajo Laurel.

Dance doyenne Goquinco commented, "Marivic Rufino produces exquisite delicate art in watercolor, the most difficult of mediums. She has the vision of a poet and unerring craftsmanship."

Need we say more?

LOUIE Coson and wife Tessie Sy of SM



RAFFY Rufino and Connie Lopez

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Bore of the year no more

Bulgari made sure the Love 14 Foundation's annual Manila's Five Loveliest ball would be a smashing success

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Photos by Lorna Llanes

MANILA'S FIVE LOVELIEST 2001. Carissa Sarmiento, Nicole Jacinto, Gabie Santiago, Ella Villanueva and Karina Mantolino

A HIGH-PROFILE politician who once attended Love 14 Foundation's annual Manila's Five Loveliest Gala Ball remarked that it was "the bore of the year." In a way, he was right because the previous affairs seemed to last forever. In addition to the proclamation proper, there used to be an auction, a raffle and ballroom dancing.

This year's edition held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La, however, was a quantum improvement from the previous productions. In fact, the general consensus among the glitzy audience is that it was the best Manila's Five Loveliest gala yet since the yearly charity event started 12 years ago.

Credit goes to Bulgari and its savvy representative in Manila, Mario Katigbak. No expense was spared to make it a truly elegant and beautiful evening. An inspired Roxanne Lapus conceptualized and directed the show, taking liberal inspirations from the recent Hollywood blockbuster "Moulin Rouge." With seasoned stage actor Raymond Lauchengco as emcee, Roxanne unraveled a fabulous show featuring five spectacular production numbers. High-wire performers, a top hip-hop group (Maneouvres), assorted mimes and harlequins, Douglas Nierras' Powerdance, Ballet Philippines (the marvelous *arnis* number was simply breathtaking) and pop singers (Aliya Parcs, Michael Turner, Zaq Salazar) filled the stage, which was dramatically designed in stark black by Zenas Pineda of Rustan's Flower Shop.

Loveliest

The new Manila's Five Loveliest are Nicole Dominique Onrubia Jacinto, 20; Karina Regina Castillo Mantolino, 18; Gabie Tapales Santiago, 17; Carissa Bianca Dee Sarmiento, 17, and Roselle Marie Navales Villanueva, 22. These girls, all bearing the hallmarks of good breeding, good genes and good looks, join a distinguished group that includes such familiar names as Patricia Borromeo, Patricia Panlilio, Cathy Santamaria, Rosanne Prieto, Aimee Marcos, Michelle Concepcion, Michelle Santos, Carissa Vera-Perez Cruz, Maricris Sarino, Audrey Puckett, Trish Villanueva, Bernice Palanca, Drinie Aguilar.

Relinquishing their crowns to their successors were last year's Manila's Five Loveliest—Raya Mananquil, Julia Quisumbing, Keri Lynn Neri and Ma. Theresa Gozon. Alta Sia Redor, one of last year's lovelies, was out of the country. The Spirit of '66 Band played dance music after the proclamation proper.

The Love 14 Foundation started as a purely social group 14 years ago. It has since evolved into a serious and dynamic foundation, duly registered with the SEC, which aims to help alleviate the plight of the poor. The search for Manila's Five Loveliest is its major fund-raising project. Some of the charities that have benefited from the foundation are the Stepping Stone Learning Center for the Handicapped, the Burns Center Unit of the Philippine General Hospital, the Ospital ng Makati, the Bethlehem House of Bread for Malnourished Children in Baliuag, Bulacan, and the Parish of Our Lady of Remedios in Barangay Curry, Pili, Camarines Sur.

Proceeds of this year's affair will go to the Love 14 Scholarship Fund, a program designed to shoulder the expenses of deserving but financially challenged students through a four-year college course. Mall scion Irene Martel Francisco and tireless charity worker Nini Licaros are the incumbent Love 14 president and chair, respectively.

Bulgari, this year's sole presenter, showcased its latest jewelry line, Lucea, at the affair. The dazzling pieces were displayed at the foyer and a few were worn by the five lovelies during their proclamation. Other sponsors were Emphasis Salon at Rockwell Center and Premier Wines Inc.

MILLIE Reyes, Mario Katigbak and Nini Layug

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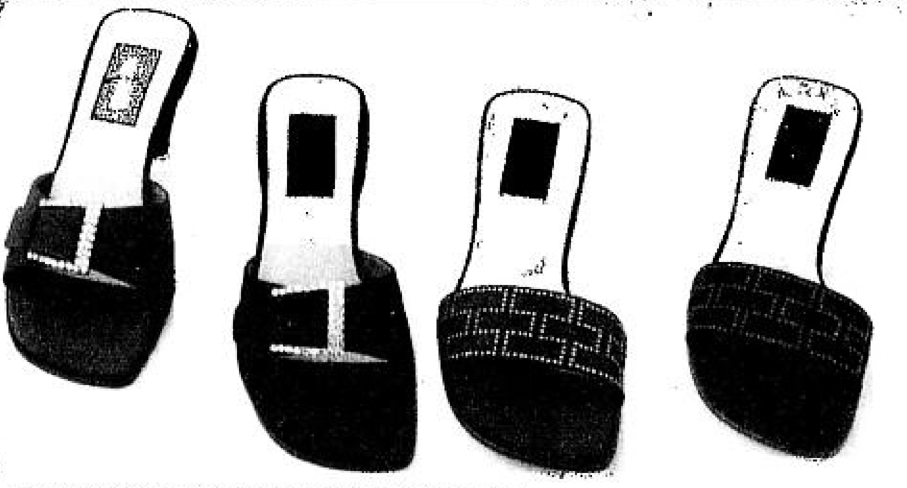

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Since Criselda Lontok has been with Rustan's that long, it was inevitable that she would develop her own footwear line

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Shoes from a woman who loves them

By Marge C. Enriquez

ARE we poised for a recession or what?

Just last weekend, despite reports that year-to-date retail sales dropped by 20 percent, Rustan's raked in enough profit that could buy the two top floors of a luxury condominium.

The stores gave discounts from 5-20 percent on all items, and everything just flew off the shelves. The salespersons didn't have lunch until 5 p.m.

Rustan's house designer Criselda Lontok also reports that her new footwear line exceeded sales expectations when she launched it last Thursday. Priced at P1,995, the shoes were snapped up by loyal customers who were buying several styles at a time. On the first day, 24 pairs were bought in 20 minutes. She'd have to restock before the holiday rush. This is one strategy that works. When times are hard, offer a quality product at a low price.

Why are some retailers luckier than others in times like these?

Top seller

Lontok has been a consistent top seller among the local womenswear brands in Rustan's. Ever since she relaunched her label, Criselda, last year, sales went up by 176 percent.

Lontok attributes her fortune to gut feel, a taste that's been refined through decades of experience and the constant survey of the consumer's acceptance of her merchandise. She frequently monitors her racks and checks with her boutique managers and salespeople. The first thing she asks: Which item didn't sell? That concept eventually gets scrapped.

Then she asks questions about the profiles of her customers. Although the median age is 35, Criselda has been attracting a younger market since she infused the line with sexier clothes. Lontok admits that her plus sizes, which she pioneered, comprise nearly 40 percent of the market share. After all, they're the ones with the spending power. Slacks are bestsellers, a reflection of an increasing casual lifestyle.

A foreign service graduate, Lontok ended up in retail when she joined Rustan's in 1974 as one of the three merchandising managers that handled the ladies and teens department. Lontok credits the late founder, Gliceria Tantoco, as her mentor. Tantoco honed their instincts in merchandise selection and pricing strategy.

In 1985, she started her own label. Like many local brands, her suits and knits are produced in Hong Kong.

Footwear, too

She's also the merchandise manager for the store's shoe brands such as Cassandra, which specializes in synthetic leather, Lady Rustan's and Oleg Cassini for women. Cassandra has been experiencing sales growth of as much as 200 percent. Stocks have to be replenished every week. The brand is popular because the styles are contemporary and priced between P695 to P995. Sales of Lady Rustan's shoes have been improving ever since local suppliers used softer leather. Oleg Cassini is more of a comfort shoe line. Lontok approves the styles and the merchandise managers do the pricing.

Since Lontok has been with the company that long, handling a wide assortment of labels and products, it was inevitable that she would develop her own footwear line, bearing her name. After all, she loves shoes. Lontok said when she visited Rome for the first time, she packed 36 pairs just for herself. She isn't surprised if Filipinos collected 2,000 pairs of shoes in 20 years, the way Imelda Marcos did.

This year, Lontok went to China and accidentally discovered her supplier. The factory also makes shoes for Nine West and, would you believe, Manolo Blahnik? She road-tests the shoes and gives the manufacturers feedback.

Criselda shoes are meant to complement her clothing line. The styles are very feminine, much like the entrepreneur. The holiday styles are mostly mules and open-toed sandals, adorned with rhinestone pins, flitter, ribbons and floral accents. Some of the Swarovski-studded slingbacks cost P1,995. Since there are no half-sizes, you'll have to do your own fitting. Lontok has provided styles for feet as big as 9.

Customers close to the former first lady have observed that Criselda shoes are the styles Imelda Marcos would love.

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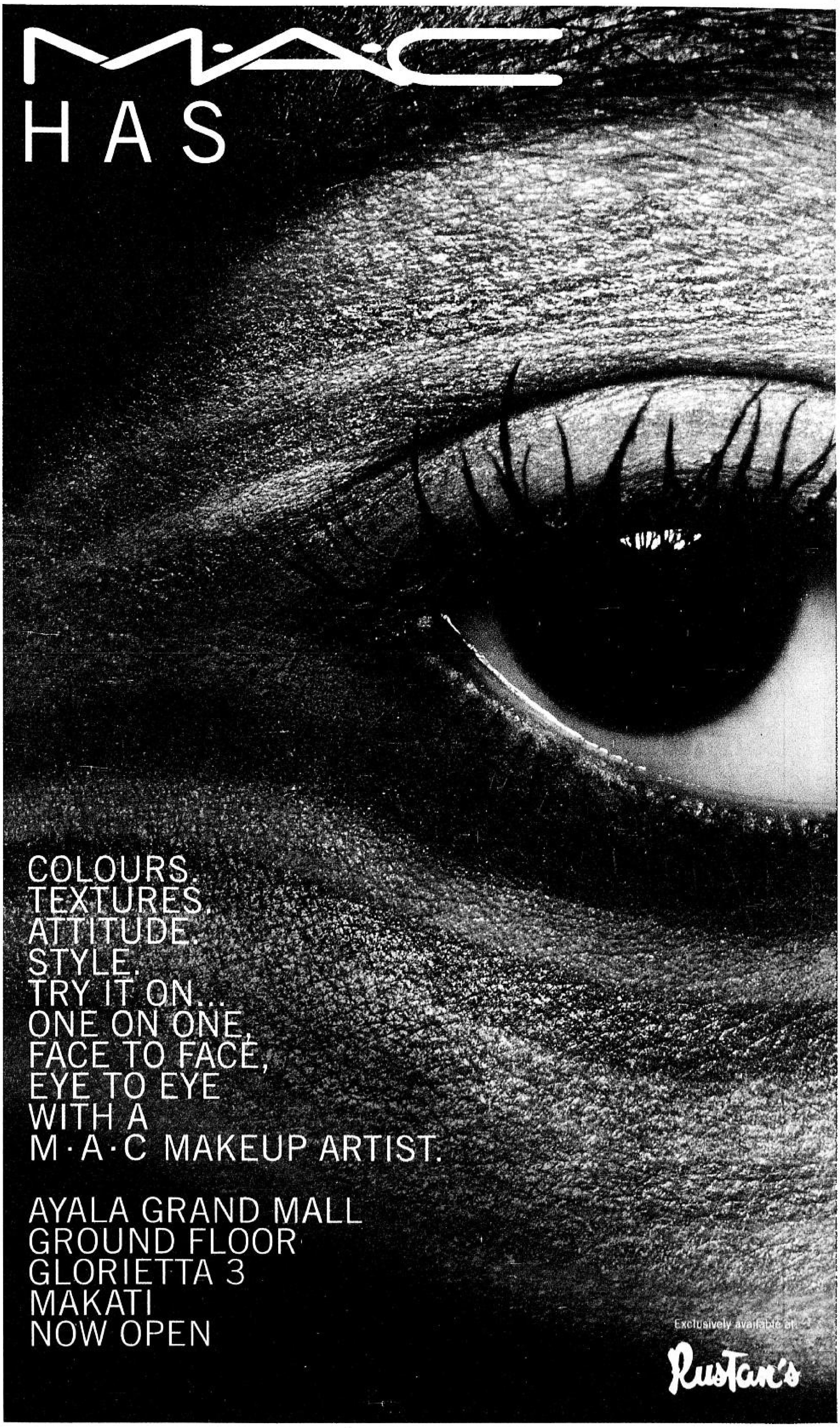

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- Grapefruit

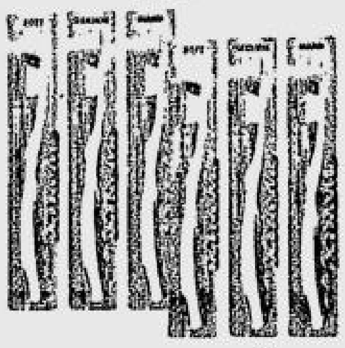
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P28.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 31.25

COKE
In Can
330 mL.
6's
TLC PRICE
P61.00 /pk.
Reg. Price 63.00

VIVA
Mineral Water
5 Liters
TLC PRICE
P42.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 45.50

ARBOR MIST
- Peach Chardonnay
- Strawberry White Zinfandel

750 mL.
TLC PRICE
P299.50 /btl.
Reg. Price 319.50



DENTAL-B
Xtreme Toothbrush
- Soft
- Medium
- Hard

TLC PRICE
P72.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 79.75

CLOSE-UP
Toothpaste
- Red

100 mL.
TLC PRICE
P37.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 39.75

BACTIDOL
Oral Antiseptic
60 mL.
TLC PRICE
P66.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 69.75

DIPPITY-DO
Spray Gel
- Sport
- Flexible Hold

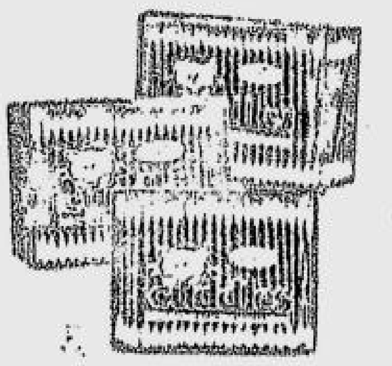
275 mL.
TLC PRICE
P179.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 189.75

JOHNSON'S
Baby Oil
- Regular

125 mL.
TLC PRICE
P38.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 41.75

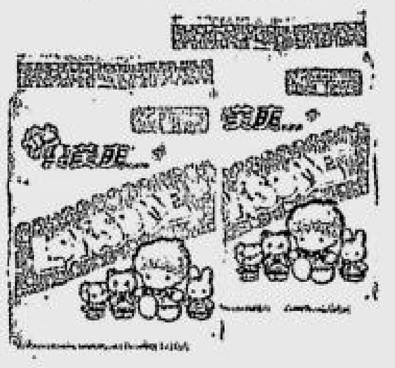
JERGENS
Body Lotion
- On Selected Variants

300 mL.
TLC PRICE
P78.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 82.75



CUDDLES
Cotton Buds
- White
- Green
- Yellow
- Pink
- Blue

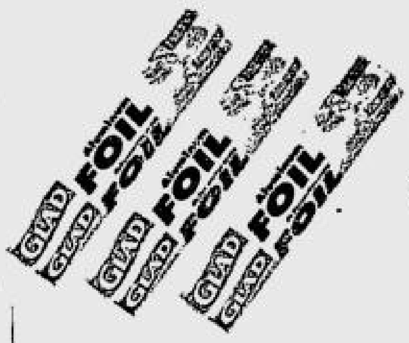
440's
TLC PRICE
P49.75 /box
Reg. Price 51.75



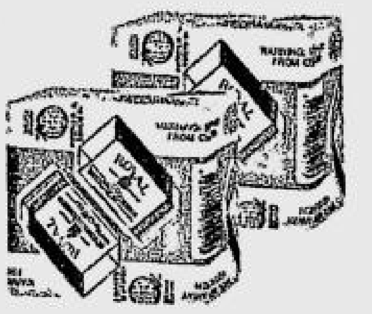
LOVESOME
Disposable Diaper
- Medium

42's
TLC PRICE
P307.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 342.50

SOFTEE
Bathroom Tissue Colors
2 Ply
9's
TLC PRICE
P97.75 /pk.
Reg. Price 102.75



GLAD
Aluminum Foil
30 cm x 7.62 m
TLC PRICE
P52.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 54.75



ROYAL
Standard Match
- Red Heads

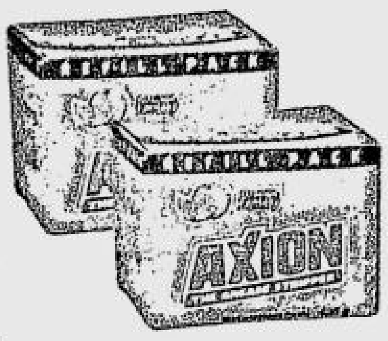
10's
TLC PRICE
P12.75 /pk.
Reg. Price 13.75

KIWI
Instant Wax Shine
- Black
- Brown
- Neutral

75 mL.
TLC PRICE
P115.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 121.75

SPEED
Detergent Bar
- On Selected Variants

480 g.
TLC PRICE
P13.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 14.50



AXION
Dishwashing Paste
- Orange Fantasy

Refill
400 g.
TLC PRICE
P36.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 38.75

ULTRA SWIPE
Dishwashing Liquid
- Strawberry
- Lemon
- Fruitamins
- Floral

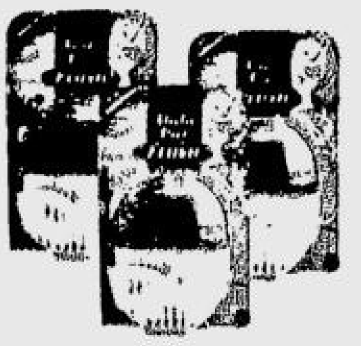
250 mL.
TLC PRICE
P29.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 33.75

ZIM
Cleanser
- Fresh
- Calamansi

Refill
350 g.
TLC PRICE
P11.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 14.75

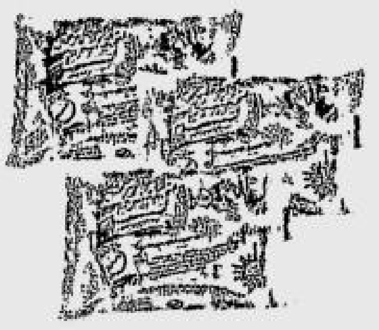
COUNTRY AIR
Scented Candle
- On Selected Variants

99 g
TLC PRICE
P94.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 99.75



AMBI PUR
Toilet Flush Freshener
- Bouquet
- Citrus
- Forest

50 mL.
TLC PRICE
P85.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 89.75



SCOTCH BRITE
Antibac Scrub Sponge
TLC PRICE
P30.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 36.75

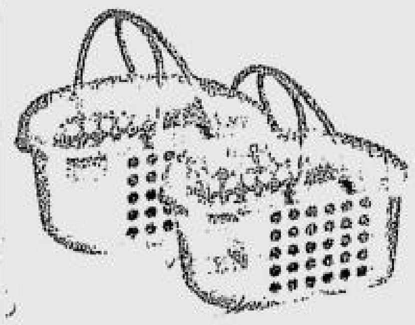
EZ
All Purpose Sponge
- Small

TLC PRICE
P6.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 7.25

CLEAN'S-UP
Floor Polishing Pad
TLC PRICE
P28.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 32.75

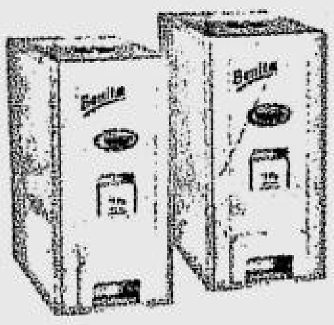
COLEMAN
Beverage Cooler
- Red
- Blue

5 gal.
TLC PRICE
P1,800.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 1,899.75

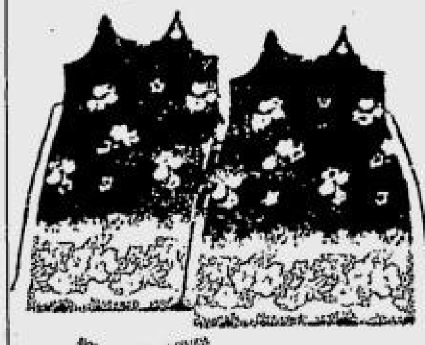


PURO
Multifunction Basket
- Small

TLC PRICE
P44.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 49.75



KYOWA
Bonita Rice Box
TLC PRICE
P500.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 579.75



EASY LIVING
Dress
TLC PRICE
P120.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 129.75

SM BONUS
Puppy Food
2 kg.
TLC PRICE
P120.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 129.75

ALPO
Digestion Plus
- Beef & Liver
- Growth
- Beef & Liver Stew
- Chicken

374 g.
TLC PRICE
P37.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 41.75

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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 3896 SERIES OF 2001

On the bag

REVIEW

Bags: A Lexicon of Style
By Valerie Steele and Laird Borelli
Periplus, 1999
192 pages

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

WHAT would possess a woman to wait up to two years for a bag that costs anywhere from $3,000-$10,000? Ask the countless women waiting patiently for a Hermes Birkin bag. A fascinating and insightful book, "Bags: A Lexicon of Style," by cultural historian Valerie Steele and fashion historian Laird Borelli, explores the phenomenon behind women and their obsession with bags. The book analyzes the social and psychological significance of bags as well as their role as visual language.

> The book talks about the social and psychological significance of purses as well as their role as visual language

The evolution of bags into the essential accessory it is today owes a lot to the changing roles of women in society as well as the changing faces of fashion. In the past, women carried everything they needed in their pockets. When the diaphanous neoclassical style of dressing eliminated the space reserved for pockets, women started carrying small purses, which often contained visiting cards, some money and a handkerchief. When cosmetics were no longer taboo, bags were designed to accommodate lipstick and powder. As women became more independent, house keys and car keys became regular contents and today the bag has become every woman's home away from home. Open any woman's bag today and you'll find a cellular phone, Palm Pilot or filofax, Band-Aids, assorted pills, cigarettes, glasses, checkbook, tampons—in other words, everything but the kitchen sink.

VALERIE STEELE
LAIRD BORRELLI
Bags
A LEXICON

The book is divided into five chapters. Each one is devoted to a particular kind of bag, the kind of women who wears it, what materials it is made of, as well as its distinguishing characteristics. The first chapter discusses practical bags. These are satchels and totes that serve a purpose. These bags are vital to women on a daily basis because they are designed to carry the necessities of everyday life. These everyday bags also become a sort of security blanket for most women, who admit they feel naked without their bags.

In contrast, precious bags, which are the focus of the next chapter, are usually so small; they can only contain keys, money and lipstick. Evening bags fall under this category of bags, which are characterized by delicate, overtly feminine designs. These small bags also imply that the women who carry them are taken care of. They also send a different message from big structural bags. The former being a more "helpless" fragile woman, while the latter connotes its wearer to be one that is powerful and "in-charge." A good example of this type of bag would be Judith Leiber's jeweled *minaudieres* of animals and vegetables. (Remember the asparagus bag that Mr. Big gave Carrie on "Sex and the City"?)

Status bags

The third chapter deals with status bags, something that caught on in the latter part of the 20th century. These are "logo" bags like Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Gucci, Fendi and Christian Dior. What makes a status bag? According to the authors, legitimacy in the fashion industry, great advertising and celebrity support. These bags often become "must-have" items and are usually copied profusely. Because of the extent to which these bags are "knocked-off," originals always have a serial number in the bag. Of course, the materials used are of a much higher quality than their fake counterparts. These are not always luxury bags, as evidence by the recent status Kate Spade bags. The eponymous bags are made of materials like nylon, tweed or silk. What really pushes the prices of these bags up is the demand for them. The Fendi baguette mania that swept fashionistas last year is indicative of the ridiculous cult-like following status bags gain. Nowadays though, the '80s logo mania has been replaced by a more subdued and understated chic.

The fourth chapter is all about luxury bags. These bags are like couture; they are works of art. They are made of high-quality exotic materials like alligator, ostrich, furs and mink. For instance, a Roberta di Camarino Bagonghi bag is made of Soparizzo velvet. This is the same material used in the Vatican and it is made in the dark to prevent the color from fading from exposure to light. Only 10 meters can be produced in a month. Luxury bags are also often handmade. A Kelly bag takes up to 13 hours to make and requires over 2,000 hand stitches while a Tod's bag passes through at least 40 hands. These seem excessive but the breathtaking quality of a luxury bag is simply incomparable.

Body bags

The final chapter takes on the current trend of utility bags. These bags are extensions of the body; they are strapped on, buckled on, or worn on the back. Basically, they are meant to keep one's hands free to do other things and are often ergonomically designed. They are inspired by functionality found in military equipment, tourist gear and sports accessories. The Prada backpack was the earliest precursor of the utilitarian style. Materials used are neoprene, ballistic (bulletproof) nylon, industrial polyester and taffeta bomber cloth. The buckles are of plated steel or Velcro as opposed to the gold-plated and bejeweled buckles of their luxury counterparts.

Not only is "Bags: A Lexicon of Style" filled with interesting information, it also has dozens of full color photographs of the most popular bags of the last decade. Any bag lover will certainly pour over this with gusto. The only downside is, you'll find yourself lusting for bags that you know you shouldn't even look at in the first place.

Available at Powerbooks

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

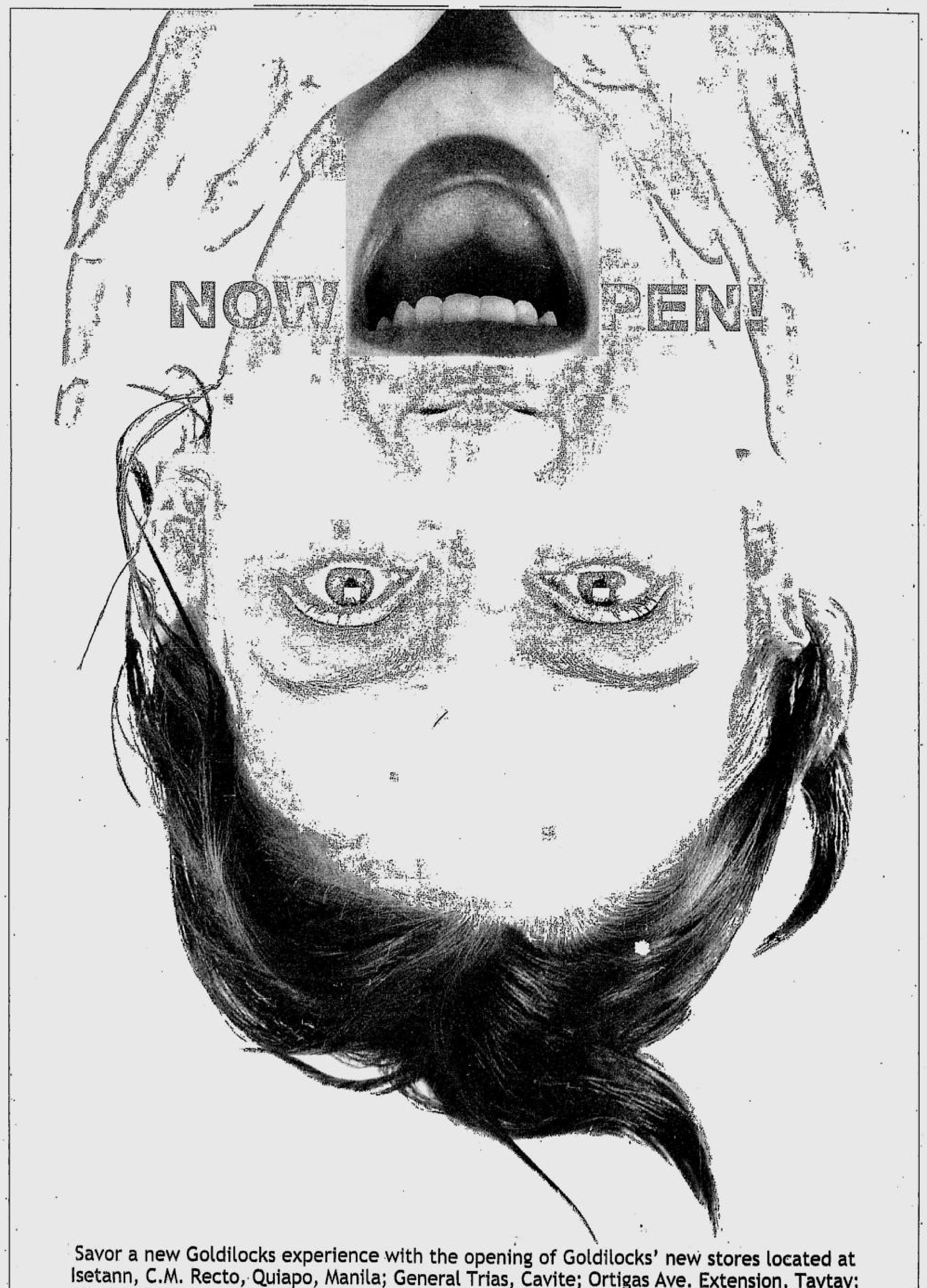
Shirt sale

HANG Ten Phils., a casual clothing brand for the youth market segment, is having a sale.

Until Nov. 30, Hang Ten offers to slash down the price of its top-selling crewneck shirt, when you buy two items of any color selection, to only P350. Buyers will get a savings of P140 since crewneck shirts are originally sold at P245 per piece.

Likewise, Hang Ten makes its classic polo shirts more affordable to the Filipino public by selling two items of any color selection for amazing price of P699 (with a total savings worth of P291). One of the hottest items on the rack, classic polo shirts are originally sold at P495 per piece.

There are 31 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. Hang Ten has opened branches in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, Pacific Mall in Legaspi City, and in ShoeMart (SM) Davao. All Hang Ten products sold locally are imported.



Savor a new Goldilocks experience with the opening of Goldilocks' new stores located at Isetann, C.M. Recto, Quiapo, Manila; General Trias, Cavite; Ortigas Ave. Extension, Taytay; CSI Mall Lucao, Dagupan and Robinsons Novaliches with its modern and fresh looks that will make your visit more exciting and memorable.

So, come and see for yourself! Bitbitin ang sarap today!!

Goldilocks
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.
Goldilocks 35

Christmas garden bazaar

EARLY Christmas shoppers will find a lot of gift ideas for garden lovers at the Christmas bazaar of the Las Piñas Garden Club at the Las Piñas City Hall along Alabang-Zapote Road. Ornamental and flowering plants, fruit trees, bonsai, cacti and succulents, orchids and bromeliads will be on sale. Garden tools and accessories will also be available.

Daily lectures and a seminar on gardening, landscape and plant business will also be held. Admission is free.

The bazaar, which will end Nov. 30, will also have Christmas decor, household items and ready-to-wear clothes.

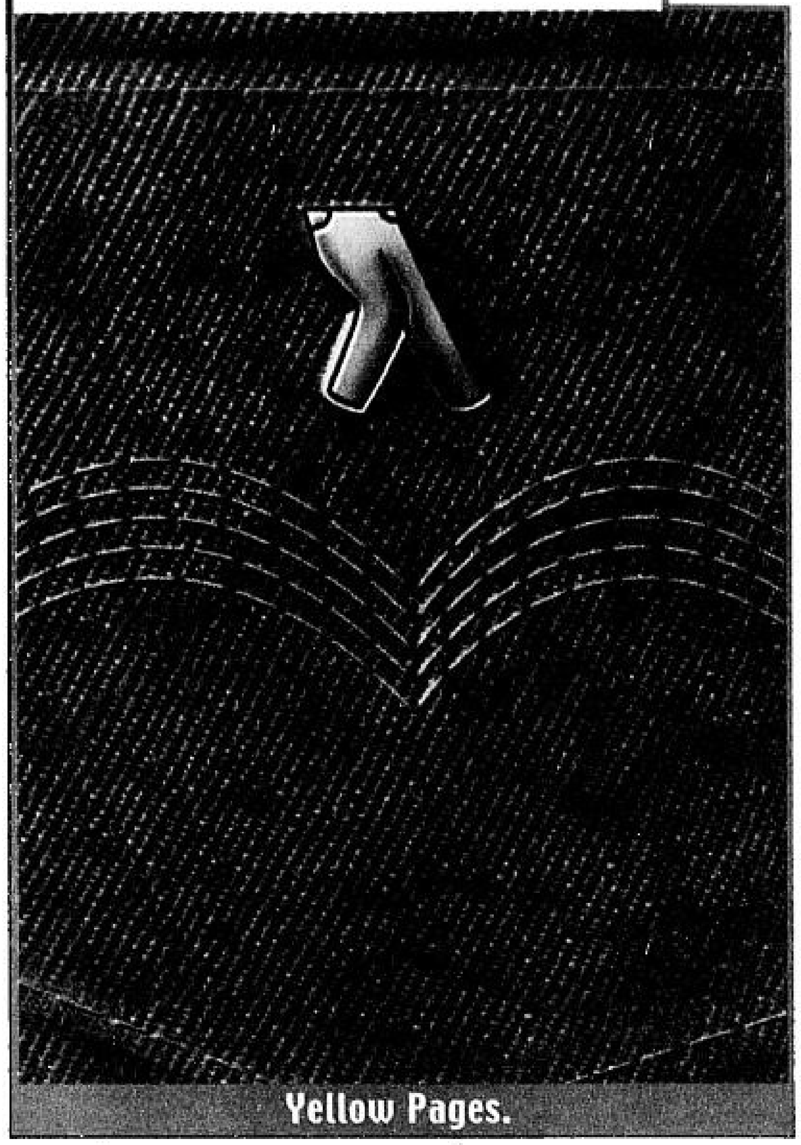
Call Nora Padua at 873-2341, Letty Olberg at 872-0296, or Julia Aldaba at 875-1889.

Class reunions

THE ALUMNI Association of Roosevelt College invites all graduates of Class '77 in a grand reunion at 6 p.m. tomorrow. Call Gloria Chan at 645-2766 or Susan Estanislao at 682-0175.

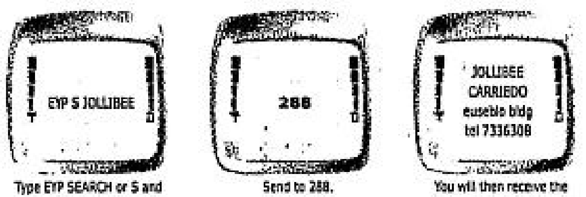
Meanwhile, classes '72 and '73 of Francisco Balagtas Academy in Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan will hold a reunion at the Cool Water Resort in Lalakhan, Sta. Maria, Bulacan on Nov. 30. Call Edgardo Pagsanhan at 0919-6091673, SPO4 Delfin Nicolas at 0919-564-2593 or Rita Sta. Rita 0918-9107125.

SMART zed™



The pocket-sized solution to finding a number.

Here's how to download the service:



Type EYP SEARCH or S and name of the establishment Ex.: EYP S JOLLIBEE

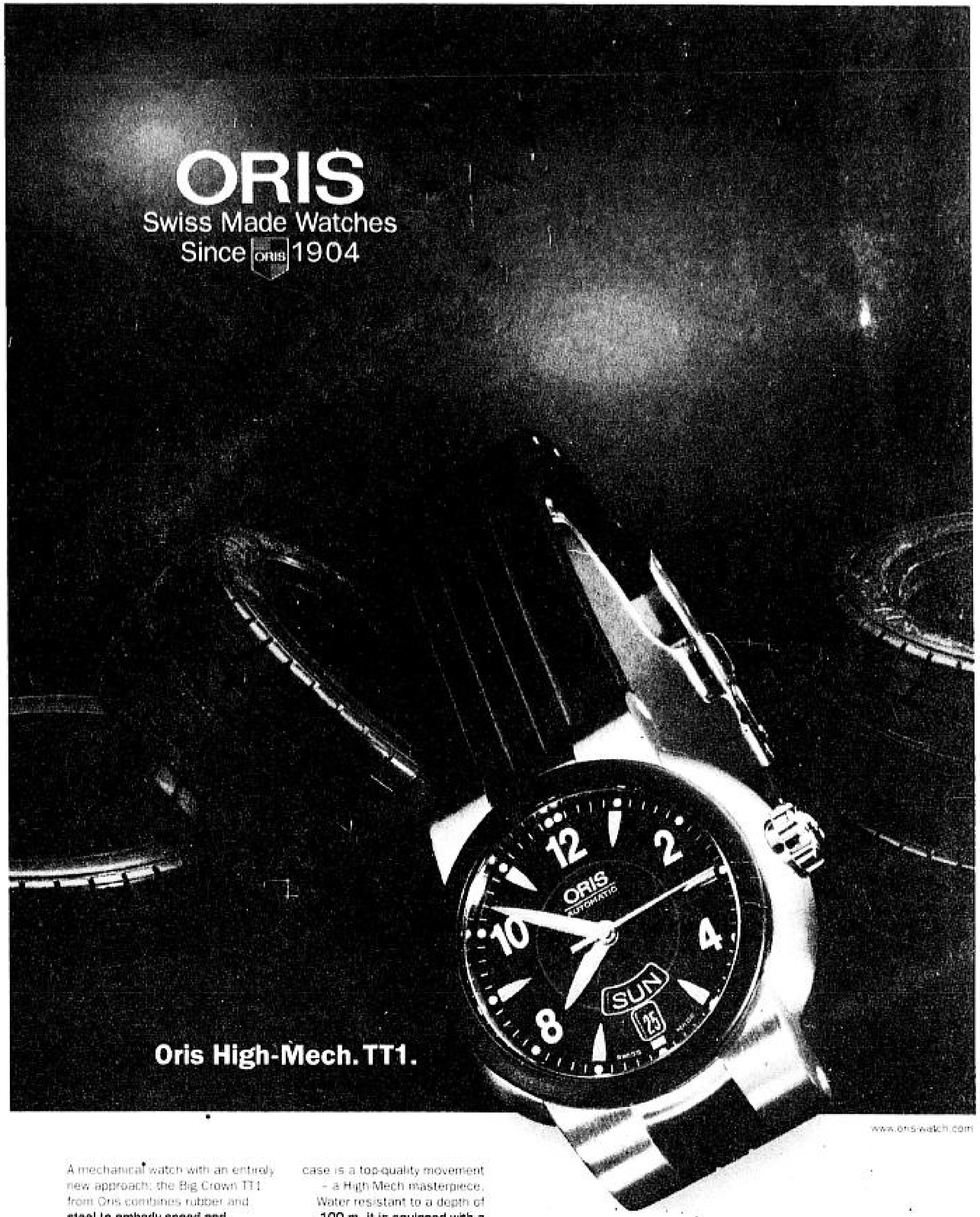
Send to 288.

You will then receive the phone number and address of the establishment.

For those using SMART zed SIM cards, go to the SMART zed MENU. Click on PERSONALIZE and follow the steps as prompted on your screen.

To get a list of keywords for other SMART zed services, type KEYS and send to 288.

EYP E-YellowPages.ph



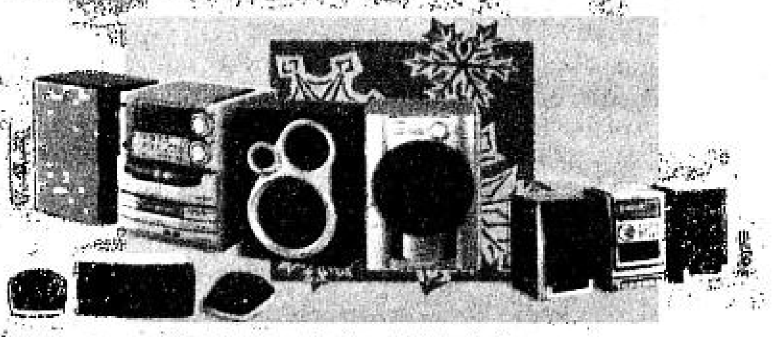
www.oris-watch.com

A mechanical watch with an entirely new approach: the Big Crown TT1 from Oris combines rubber and steel to embody speed and elegance. The strap, with tyre-tread pattern, and the top ring are made of vulcanised black rubber. Embedded into the massive stainless-steel case is a top-quality movement – a High-Mech masterpiece. Water resistant to a depth of 100 m, it is equipped with a screw-down crown and day/date displays. When every second counts, the Oris Big Crown TT1 keeps time on your side.

OFFICIAL SERVICE CENTER
WATCHWORKS. Level2, ALI MALL, Araneta Center, Quezon City
Level2, AYALA CENTER CEBU, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City

aiwa
Holidays
sights, sounds & surprises!

Aiwa lets you celebrate the Holidays by giving away exciting gifts when you purchase selected Aiwa products.



The Aiwa XR-DV826 DVD MINI Hi-Fi System (4000 WPMPO) comes with an Aiwa Ultra Mini Hi-Fi System.

The Aiwa NSX-WV89 VCD MINI Hi-Fi System (4000 WPMPO) comes with a Siemens cellphone.

The Aiwa NSX-SZ50 MINI Hi-Fi System (2400 WPMPO) comes with a Vivitar camera.

aiwa
Sounds Good
aiwagold@mail.sen.com.ph

Promo period is from October 1 to December 31, 2001. Avoid the Christmas rush, go to the nearest Aiwa dealer now!

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1507, SERIES OF 2001

METRO MANILA- Abenson, Inc., Anson Emporium, AVID Sales, AV Surfer, AIWA Showroom, Best Brands, Emilio S. Lim Appliances, OHM'S Traders, SM Appliance Center, Inc., Worldwide A/V Home Appliance • **NORTH LUZON-** City Supermarket, Inc., Magic Appliance Center, Ocampo's Olongapo, Inc. • **SOUTH LUZON-** Allied Appliance, Alson's Trading, ANP Gen. Merchandise, City Appliance-Laguna, Electromart, Multibrand Distributor, Normel Marketing, People's Marketing, PM Marketing, Royal Star Marketing, RRS Marketing, Trinity Home Appliance, Willy & Sons Corp. • **VISAYAS-** (Iloilo)- Nig Marketing (Tacloban)- Gleen Marketing, Inc., RL Appliance • **MINDANAO-** (Zamboanga)- Golden Bell Commercial, Inc.

Two-day antique sale at PhilTrade

THE MANILA'S Art and Antique Center is holding its annual two-day sale on Nov. 17-18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

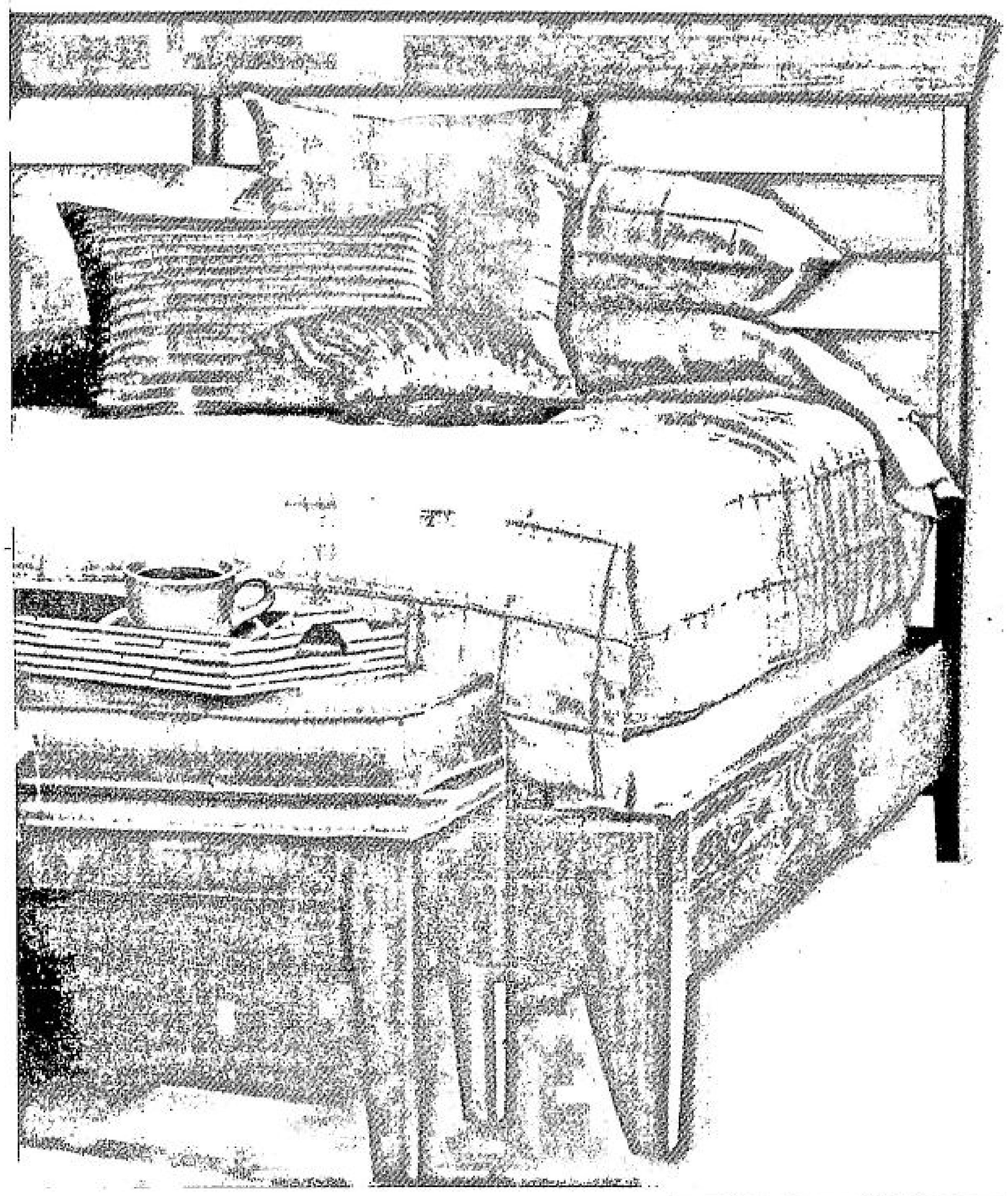
MAAC acting president Marilou Reyes, proprietor of Soul of a Tree antique shop, said bargain-hunters and collectors would be able to get several premium items and collectibles at reasonable prices. Lucky customers could also win special prizes in a raffle to be held during the sale.

Participants include Terry Baylosis Antiques, Cesar Reyes of Sievas Antiques, Blas Cordova of Cordova's Antiques, Vincent Padua of Padua Gallery, Villanueva's Antiques, Casa Linda, Abutin Antiques, Orient Pearl, Past and Present, Joan Claris Antiques, Chris and Mike Antiques, Treasure House, Cabuenos Antiques, 8888 Antiques, Sarimanok Antiques, Kaluha Arts and Antiques, Lyn and Roberts Antiques, Kalatagan Antiques, The Spirit of Arts, Aquarius Antiques, M-R Antiques, Bicol Antiques, Rosas Antiques, Mar's Antiques and Classic Mandarin.

Items on sale include an assortment of furniture—wardrobe, dresser, display cabinets, beds, wooden chairs and sofas, and dining, coffee and side tables, pottery, porcelain and celadon plates, lamps and chandeliers, paintings, jewelry, jars, brass items, diggings, *santos* and sculptures, and ivories.

The biggest antique center in Metro Manila, MAAC occupies Hall Nos. 6 and 7 at the PhilTrade in Pasay City.

Call 573-4697 and 573-4696.

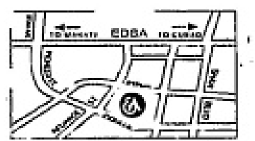


A one-day-only sale
that's guaranteed to keep you up.

The Ethan Allen 5th Anniversary Sale
10 am to 10 pm. November 23, 2001 Friday.

Never before 25% Off on ALL items off the floor
and up to 60% Off on selected items.
Coffee & cookies on the house.

ETHAN ALLEN
HOME INTERIORS
www.ethanallen.com.ph



PER DTI-NCR PERMIT
NO. A3-720 SERIES OF 2001

Exclusively Distributed by Focus Global Inc.
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Full discounts applicable on cash purchases only.

hello, DIGITEL!
hello, Milyonaryo!
Basta may DIGITEL phone, pwedeng manalo ng ₱1 MILLION!
Kaya kung wala ka pang DIGITEL, pakabit na!
DIGITEL

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promo is open to :
   a) New DIGITEL landline subscribers (FULLY PAID and INSTALLED within the promo period).
   b) Existing DIGITEL subscribers with *good credit standing with DIGITEL who applied for additional DIGITEL landline/s.
   c) Existing DIGITEL subscribers whose accounts are active/paid up-to-date on the date of the draw.
   d) New subscribers who enrolled in the Make-the-Switch Program** provided that they have used the service for at least a month and are considered in *good credit standing with DIGITEL.
   *Good credit standing means that all the telephone lines under their account number are paid up-to-date and are non-delinquent DIGITEL customers.
   **Zero OTC (one-time charge) and amortized payment plan subscribers qualify in the Grand Raffle Draw only. 50% OTC paid in full qualify for both the monthly and grand raffle draws.
2. The subscriber's account number is the raffle entry. The number of entries is equivalent to the number of phone lines subscribed. The more telephone lines they have means more raffle entries for them and more chances of winning. The account number will be the one to be drawn in the computer.
3. The raffle shall be computer-based wherein all entries are electronically assigned, consolidated and drawn. The raffle entries are assigned as follows:
   New Metered (Choice Plans) = 1 entry
   (except Zero-OTC-Payment Plans***)
   New Non-metered (Millennium Choice) = 2 entries
   (except Zero-OTC-Payment Plans***)
   Existing Subscriber*** = 1 entry
   Make-the-Switch Program = 1 entry
   (Zero OTC and Amortized Payment Plan***)
   ***Qualified for the Grand Raffle Draw only.
4. There will be six (6) monthly draws and a grand draw. The new subscribers have two (2) chances of winning. First, they can win P20,000 in six (6) minor draws per month in DIGITEL areas. Second, they can win P1,000,000 in cash in the Grand Raffle on May 24, 2002. Entries entered within a specified billing cycle will be drawn for that particular monthly draw only and will no longer be included in the succeeding monthly draws. Preliminary draw winners can only win once during the promo period. But they still have the chance to win again in the grand raffle draw.
5. The raffle prizes are as follows:

Monthly Winners	Prize	Number of Months	Total Amount of Prizes
13	P 20,000	6	P 1,560,000

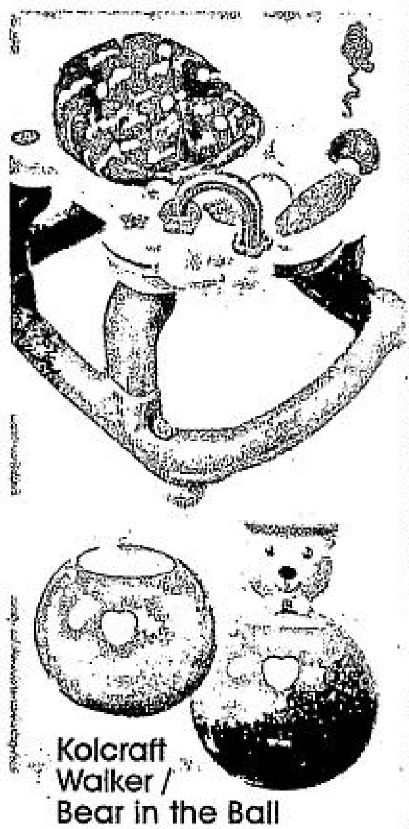
   GRAND RAFFLE: 1 winner of P1,000,000 (Grand Draw: May 24, 2002)
6. Deadlines for applying for phonelines to qualify for the monthly and grand raffle draws are available at the DIGITEL Customer Centers. All bills must be paid within thirty (30) days after the last day of billing cycle.
7. Grand raffle draw will be held on May 24, 2002 at 2:00 pm at DIGITEL Head Office at 110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City in the presence of a DTI representative.
8. Winners of raffle prizes will be informed via telegram or phone and registered mail. Winners shall also be published in Philippine Daily Inquirer, People's Tonight and posters inside Customer Centers and be announced on radio. Prizes should be claimed within sixty (60) days upon notification. Otherwise, prizes will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.
9. All prizes are tax-free and are non-transferable.
10. The prizes may be claimed at any Equitable/PCI Bank branch. To claim the prize, winners must first go to the DIGITEL Customer Center in their area specified in the registered notice and present the registered mail or telegram, the LATEST PAID billing statement, and at least one (1) valid identification card with photo and signature. The Customer Center will issue an authorization or certification to claim or withdraw the prize money.
11. The accounts must be in good credit standing* before the winners can claim their prizes. In a multiple telephone line account, if any of the telephone lines become delinquent, the whole account becomes delinquent. Thus, each line per account must be updated and currently paid.
12. DIGITEL employees, their advertising agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. Also excluded are accounts falling under DOTC owned lines managed by DIGITEL, telephone company offices, regional telephone development project, government, and JG Summit.
13. The decision of the promotion organizer is final with the concurrence of DTI.

PROMO PERIOD: November 1, 2001 to April 14, 2002

See posters for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1733 Series of 2001

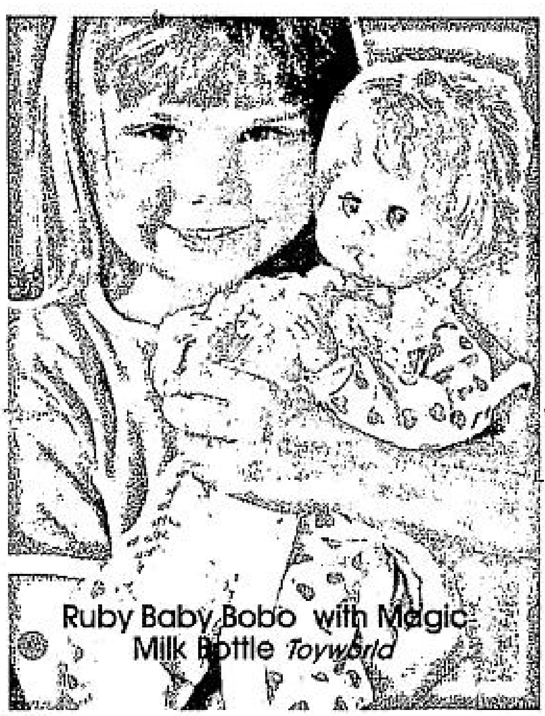
gift solutions

Christmas 2001


Kolcraft Walker / Bear in the Ball *Baby Company*

Party Dress *Infants' Wear*

Fisher-Price Rubbers *Children's Shoes*


Ruby Baby Bobo with Magic Milk Bottle *Toyworld*

Kolcraft Perfect Recliner *Baby Company*

for babies & toddlers

Holiday gifting solutions from Baby Company, Infants' Wear & Accessories, Children's Shoes & Toyworld

Bear Fun Pillow *Baby Company*

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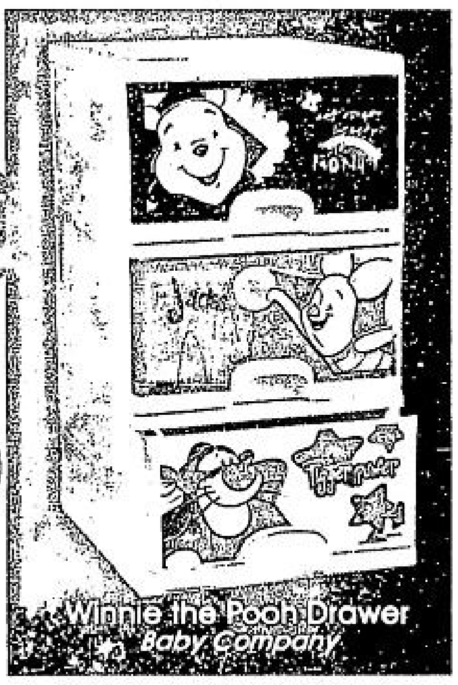
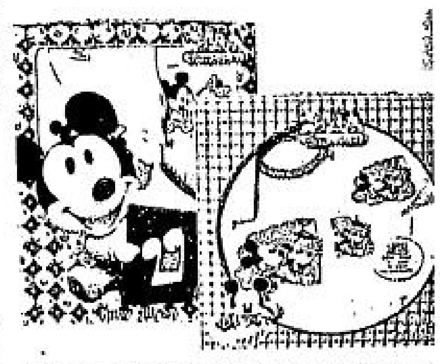
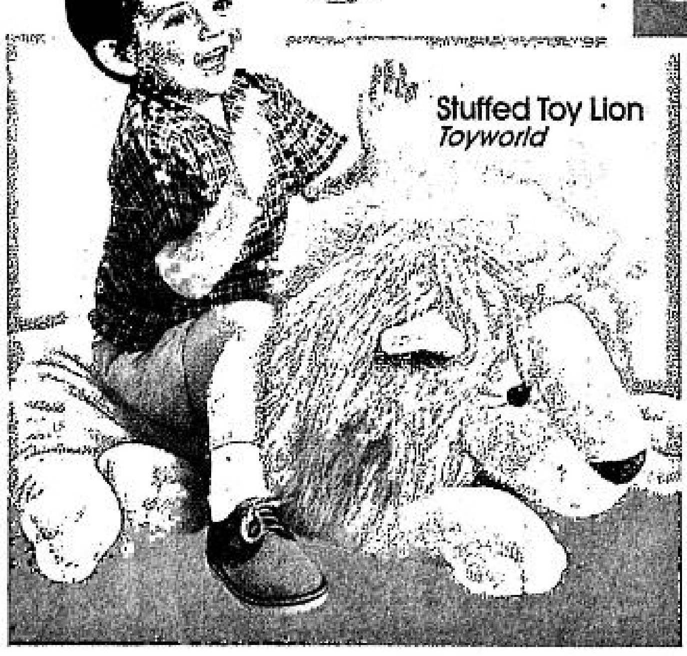
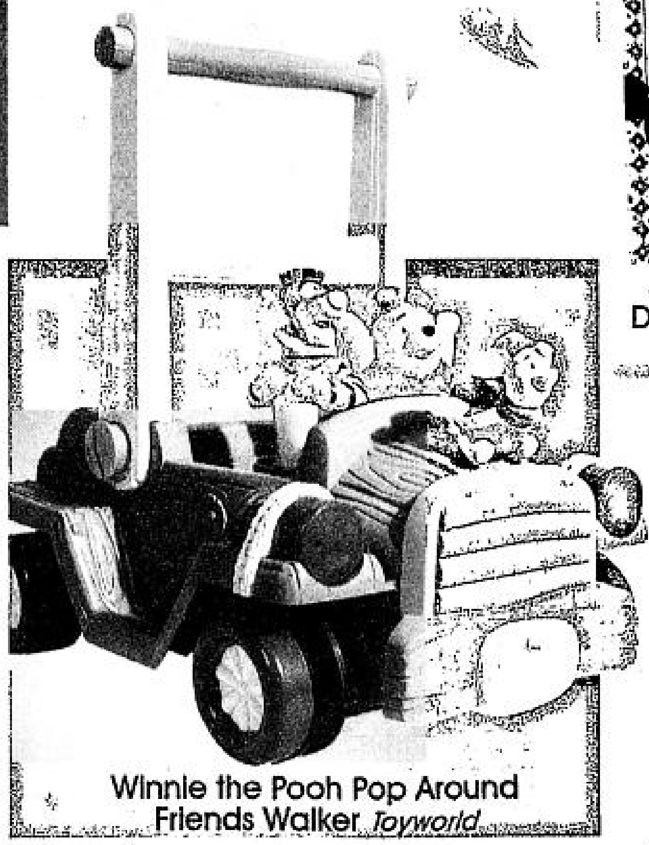
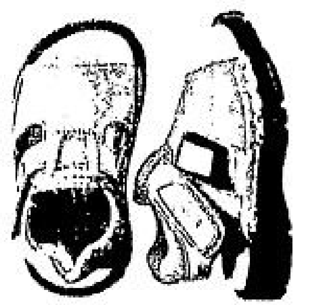

Winnie the Pooh Drawer *Baby Company*


Disney Babies Wardrobe Set *Infants' Wear*


Stuffed Toy Lion *Toyworld*

T-shirt & Shorts Sets *Infants' Wear*


Winnie the Pooh Pop Around Friends Walker *Toyworld*


Florsheim Sandals *Children's Shoes*

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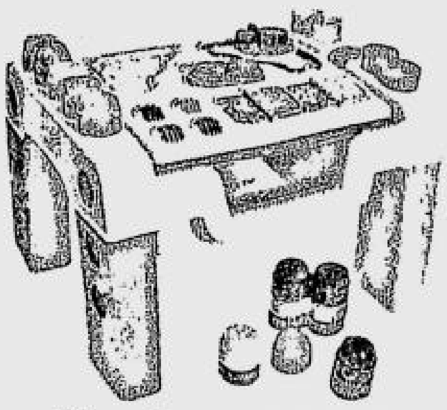
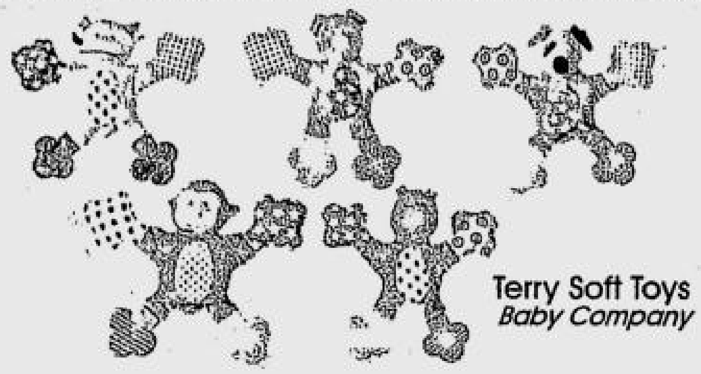

Fisher Price Activity Table
Toyworld

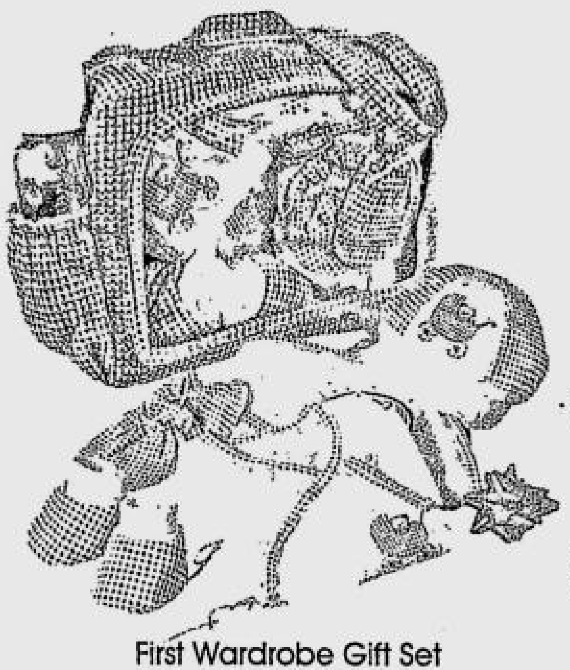
Winnie the Pooh
Playboard *Toyworld*

Kolcraft Activity Chair
Baby Company


Terry Soft Toys
Baby Company

Sesame Street
Talking Alphabet School Bus
Toyworld

Mickey Mouse
Musical TV *Toyworld*


First Wardrobe Gift Set
Infants' Wear

Kiddie Clogs with Straps
Children's Shoes

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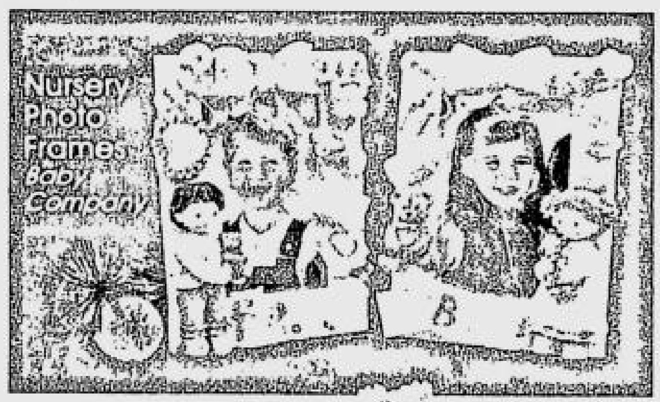
Nursery
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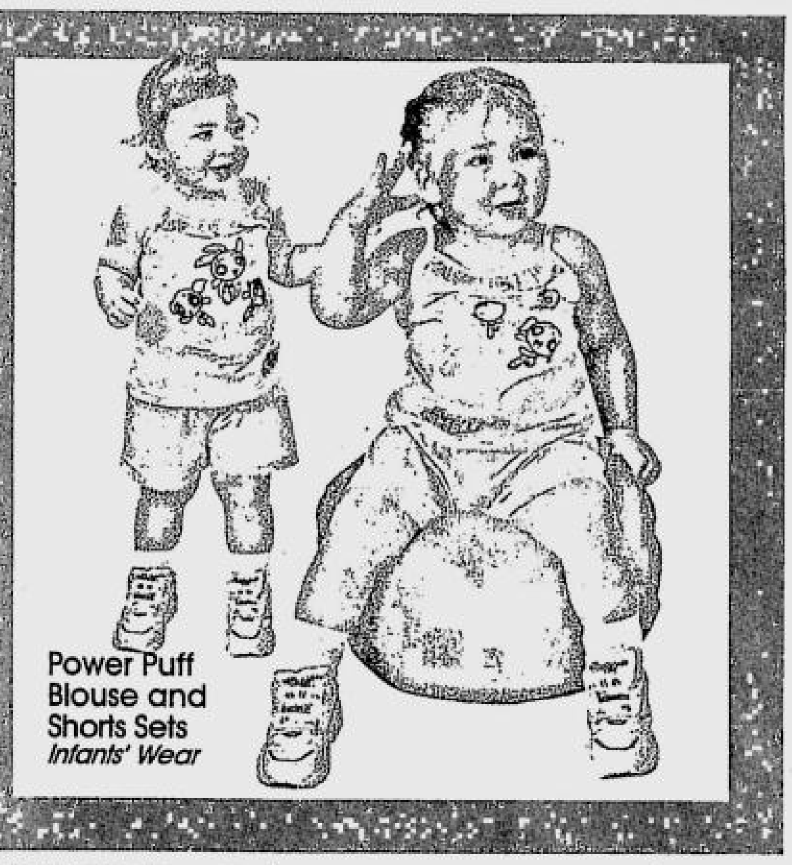
Frames
Baby Company

Inspired gifting solutions for little angels


Power Puff
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Stuffed Huggables *Toyworld*

Pooh Rocking Chair
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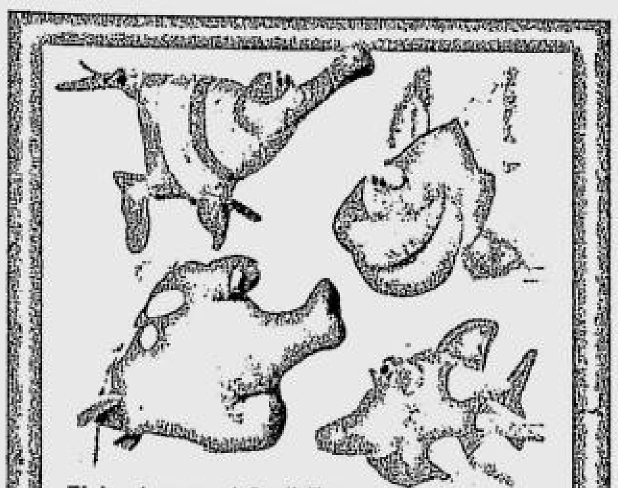
Fish-shaped Soft Toys
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Pooh Scooter
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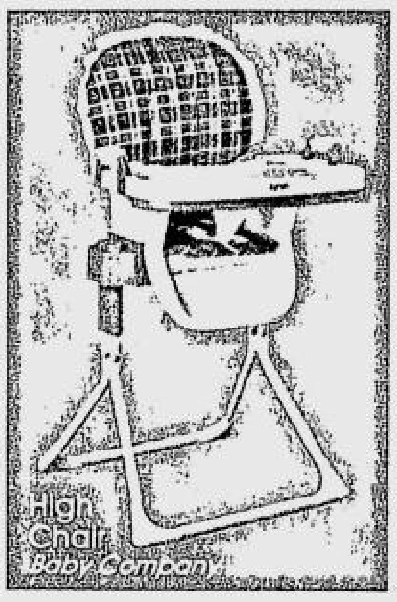
Toddler Cotton Play Sets *Infants' Wear*

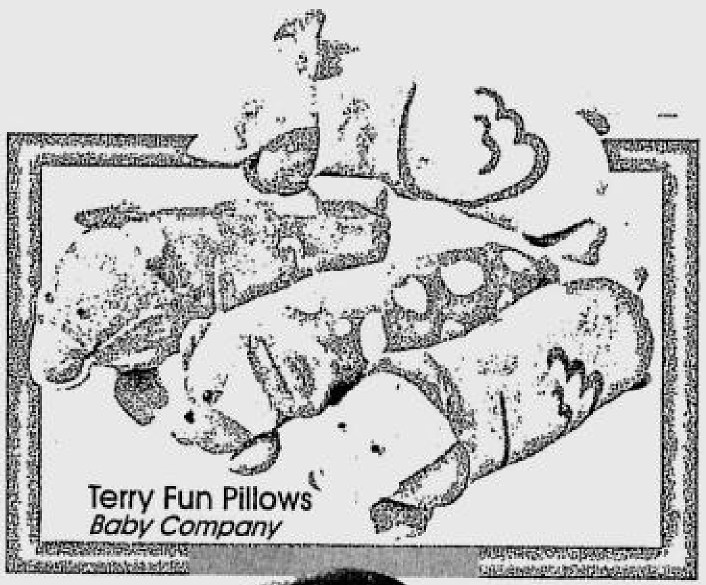
Florsheim Laced-up Nubucks
Children's Shoes

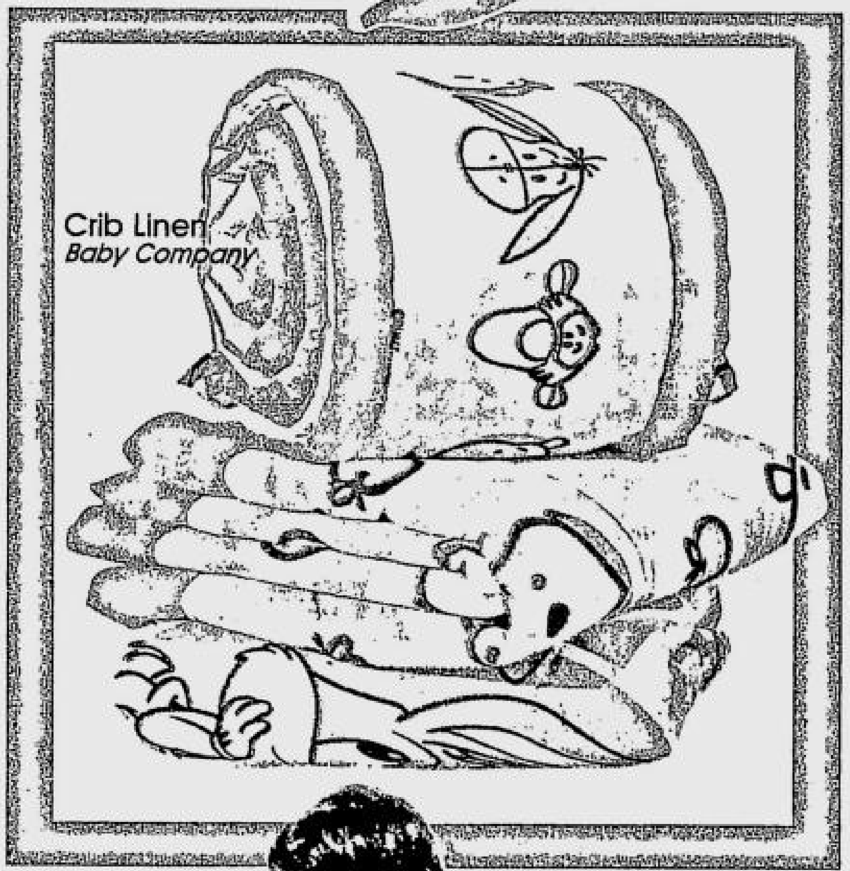

High Chair
Baby Company

Nursery Carry-alls
Baby Company

Little gifting solutions from Baby Company, Infants' Wear & Accessories, Children's Shoes and Toyworld

Fisher Price Rubber Shoes
Children's Shoes


Terry Fun Pillows
Baby Company


Crib Linen
Baby Company

Toy Trike with Basket
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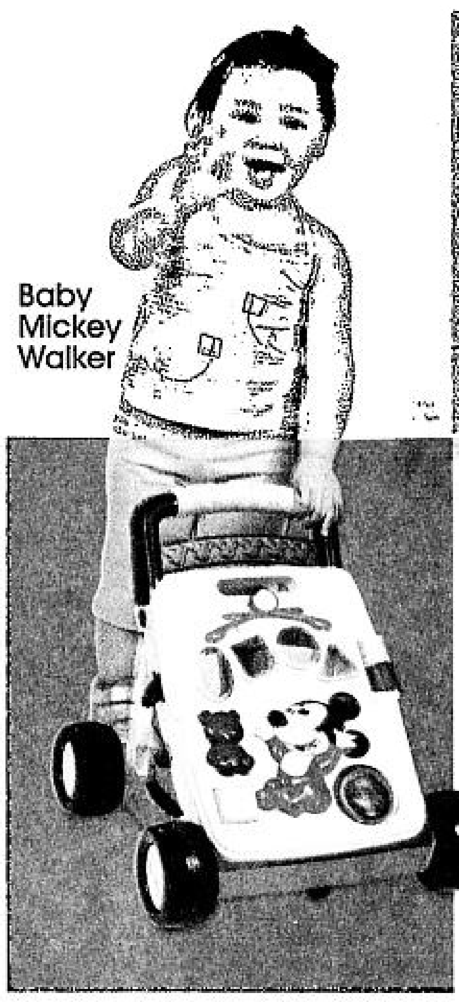
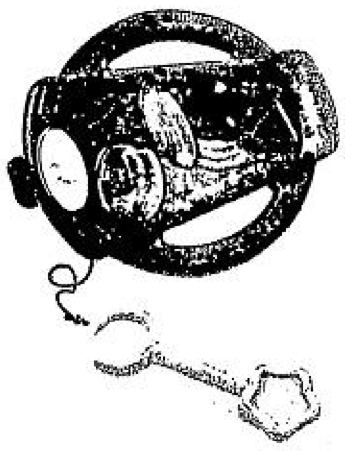
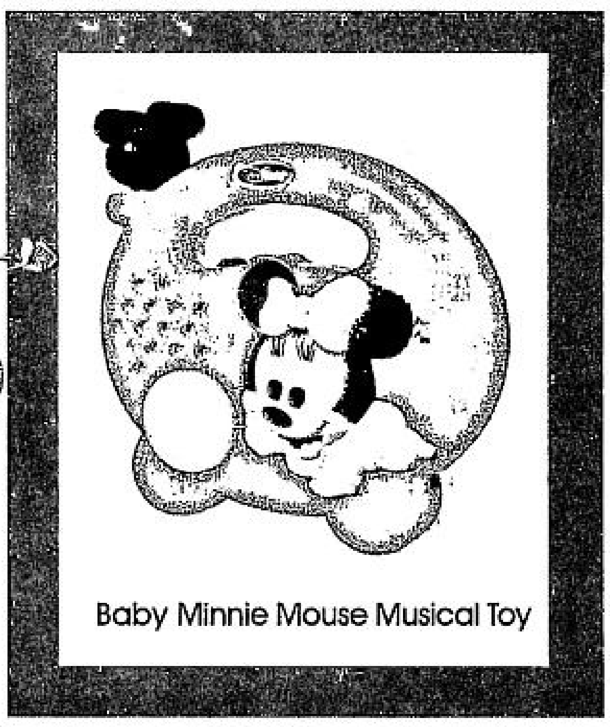

Baby Mickey Walker

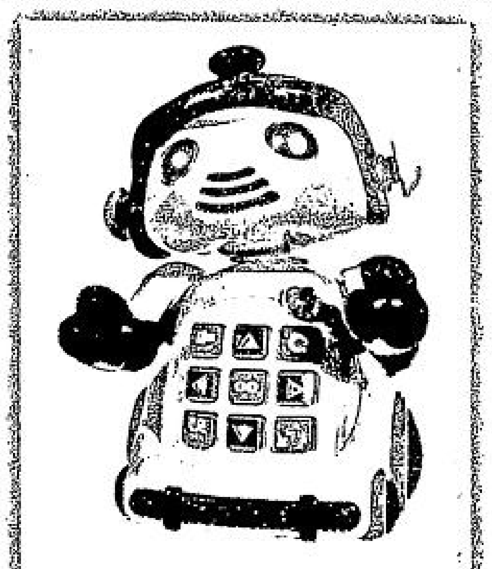
Fisher Price Toy Piano

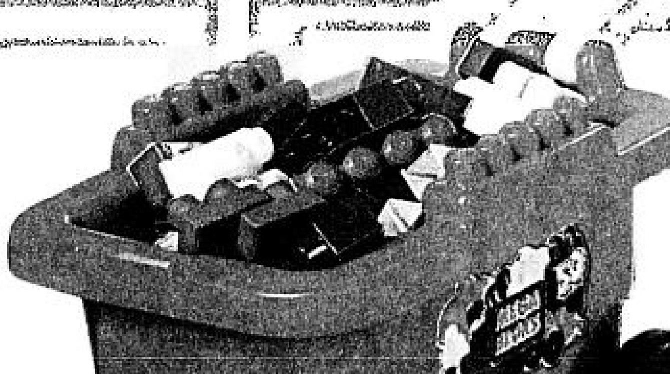

Fisher Price Toy Xylophone

Winnie the Pooh Activity Board Set

Power Puff Dolls


Baby Minnie Mouse Musical Toy


Mighty Mo's Jr. Telephone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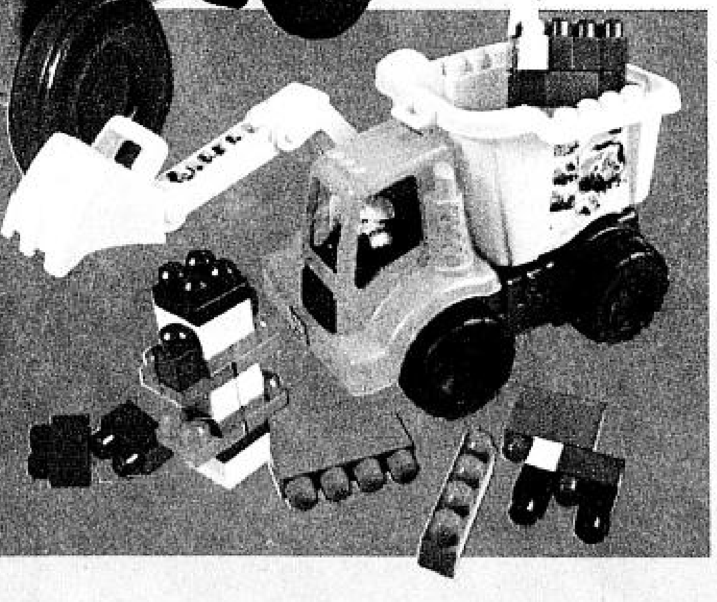

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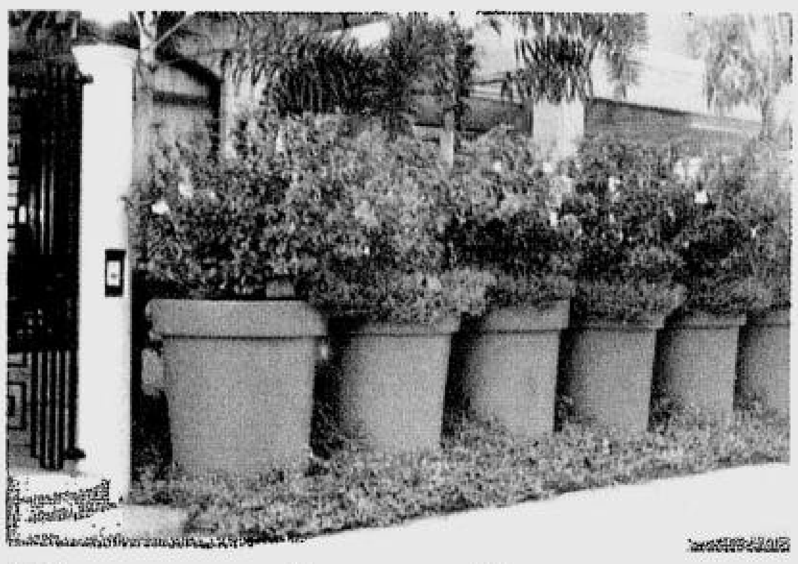
3 Araw na lang gugulong ka na sa laki ng tuwa't papremyo sa ABC Wheel of Fortune

3 Araw na lang pasikatan na ng mga pamilya sa ABC Family Feud



POTS of giant *gumamela* are used instead of barbed-wire fence.

For urban homes, a straightforward garden is ideal

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Bobot Meru

For subdivision home gardens, Robert Lilles recommends minimalism. Every plant and tree should have rhyme and reason

ARCHITECT Robert Lilles has a lot to teach traditional landscapers with his innovative garden ideas designed specially for subdivision homes in urban areas. Unfazed by typical constraints like limited space, lack of privacy and pollution, he designs gardens that are serviceable, livable and comfortably relaxing.

He admits that he doesn't like traditional home garden designs. For one thing, he avoids using native plants and trees that used to be quite popular with old-time gardeners. Instead, he opts for contemporary hybrids and imported ornamentals.

Uncluttered. Well-utilized open space. Disciplined like Zen gardens. Every single plant, boulder and accessory serves a purpose. And the landscape has a well-planned design.

These are the typical features of gardens one will find in the ready-to-move-in houses which his company, the Lilles Development Corporation, sells at first-class housing villages around the country. Not too long ago, he decided to design the garden himself instead of hiring professional landscapers that only added to the homebuyer's expenses.

Of course, he alters and changes his work to suit the homeowner's preference. The customer is always right, he says. But, if he has his own way, the garden will have his exclusive design.

"I want a garden that is different from everybody else." Lilles describes his style as "minimalist, where nothing is growing unplanned and where comfort and esthetics count."

By his own admission, he doesn't go for cheap plants. He says he prefers plants that he never saw before in the garden of his mother. "For a change, I like plants that are different from the ones I grew up with." His mother's passion for gardening influenced his fondness for gardens.

A garden of his own

The garden he built around his new home in Acropolis subdivision shows his style and preference. In-

FOR/P.G4

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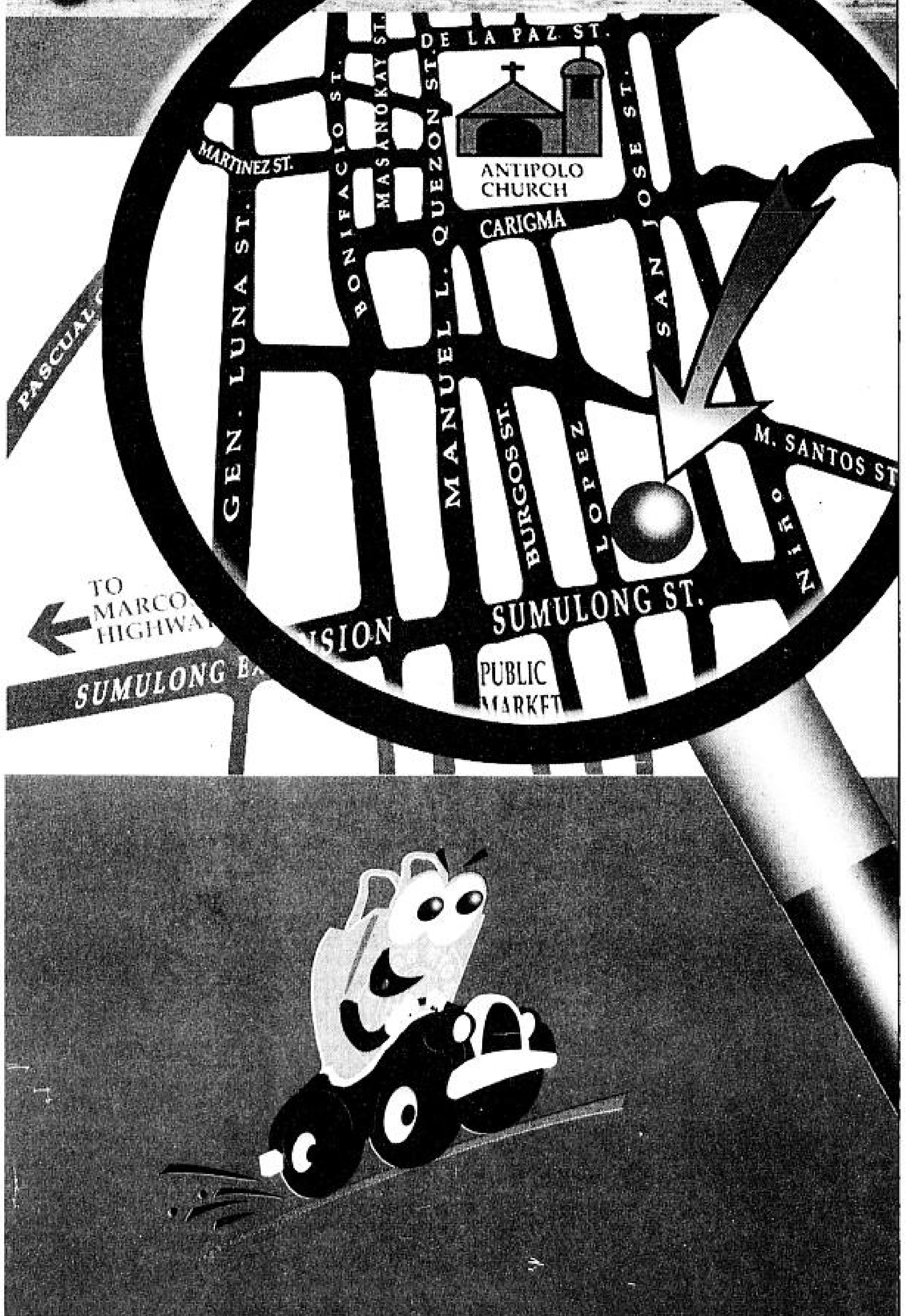
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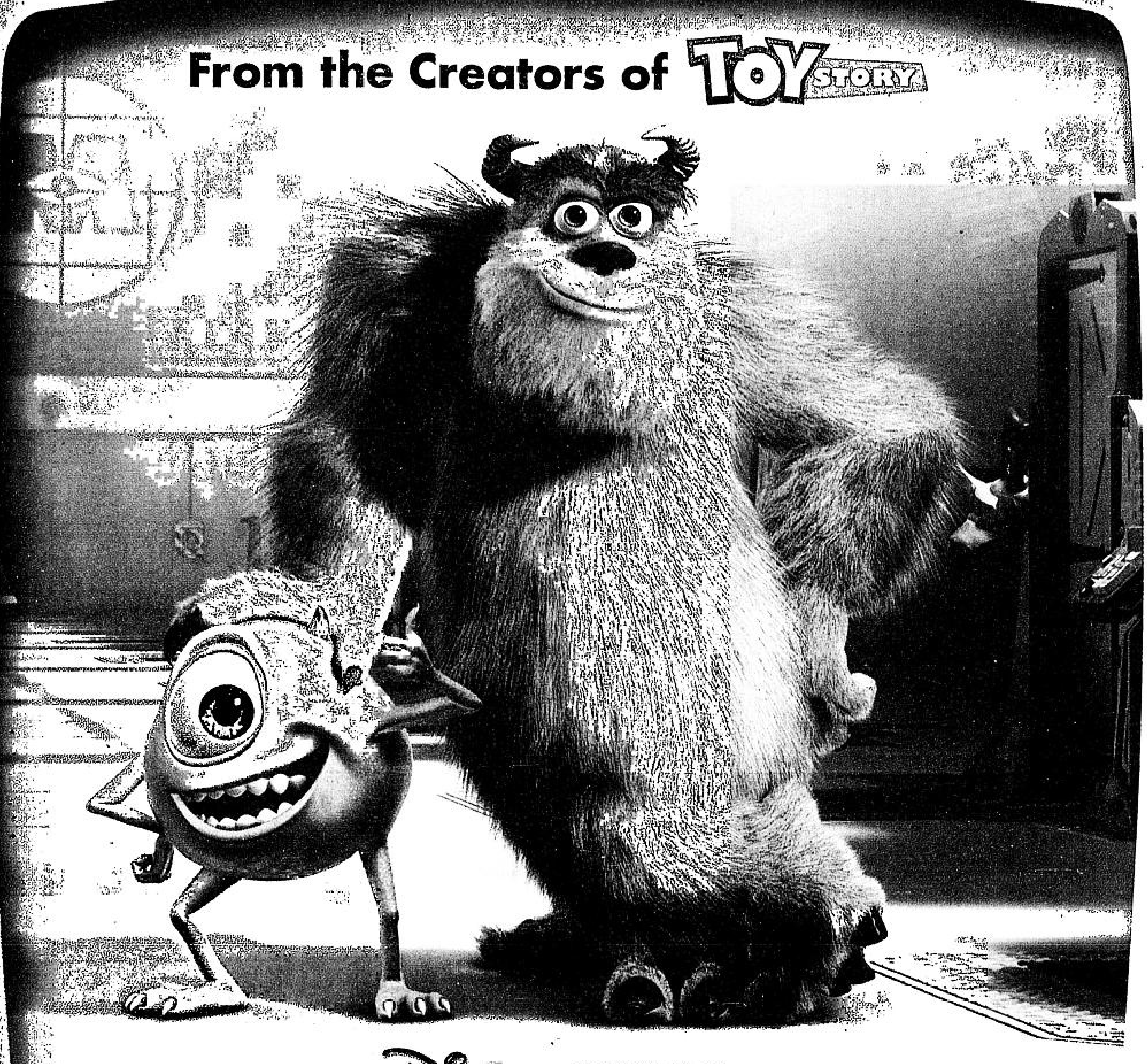

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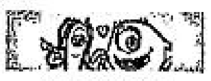

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Promo Mechanics:

1. From Nov. 16-21, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 150 members with the highest points collected will win two tickets for the Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. advance screening at SM Megamall Cinema 4, on Nov. 24, 2001, 8:00 p.m. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Winners will be notified via text message or a call to their registered celfone no. only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at any SM Megamall cinema from Nov. 16-21 are also entitled to a pair of Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. advance screening tickets.
4. Winners of both promos can claim the prizes during the advance screening night, Nov. 24, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Smart Cinema Club booth in SM Megamall Cinema 4.
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For urban homes, a straightforward garden is ideal

(From page G1)

> 'Nothing grows unplanned in my garden'

stead of building a concrete wall to shield the view of his house from the street, he used seven custom-made concrete pots, 1.10 meters high and 90 centimeters wide. Each pot bears blooming hibiscus plants.

"Nothing grows unplanned in my garden," Lilles says. The tall Hawaiian palms in front of the house provide shade and act as wind barrier. Two eucalyptus trees at the corner keep mosquitoes away. And the thorny busida shrubs provide security, while a carpet of peanut creeping plants and hardy carabao grass covers the ground.

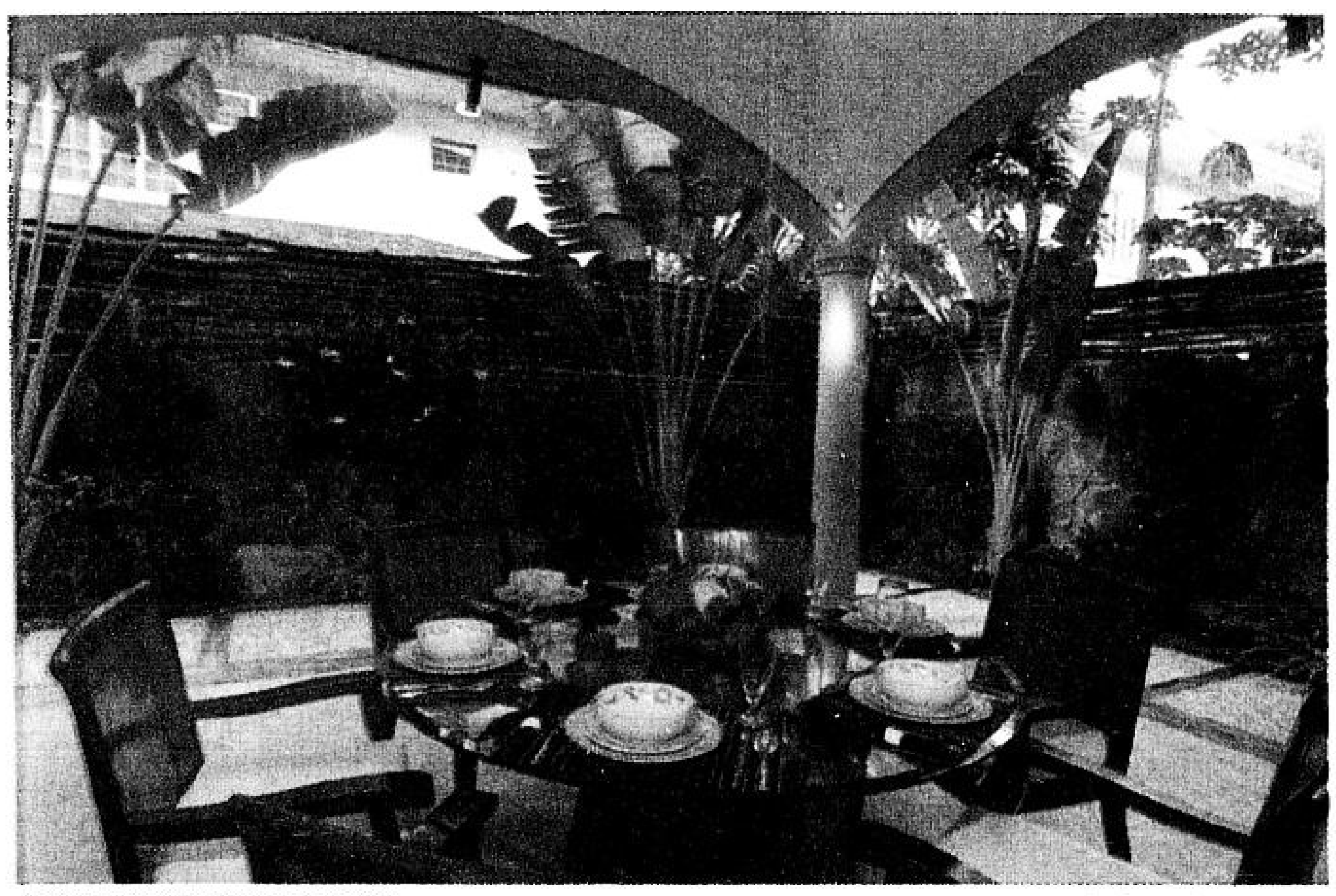
Where it is not possible to grow plants for lack of space, he paved the path with beige Boracay sand and boxes of earth-colored pebbles. "My sandbox," he jokes.

Pieces of old *traviezas* or railroad tiles were used as footpath leading to the lanai at the back of the house. Along the sunny side of the track were lazy bamboo shrubs that gave the barren spot the much-needed touch of greenery.

Although he admits that he doesn't go for tropical landscape, he planted several traveler's palms along the perimeter of the property. "That's to provide privacy and sound barrier between us and the next-door neighbor," he explains.

To avoid using barbed wires to keep off unwanted pets of neighbors, Lilles placed on top of the wall several pots of bonsai materials with

FOR/p.G8



COZY setting in the lanai garden

HAWAIIAN Palm serves as a windbreaker

Factory outlet opens today

A BREED of enterprising Filipino retailers are now establishing the popular concept of "outlet stores" similar to those found in the United States, Hong Kong and Europe.

The Outlet Yard, located on Quezon Avenue near the corner of Scout Borromeo and National Bookstore, opens today. It is conceptualized as an outdoor outlet shopping and dining complex.

For the grand opening celebration, the activities are as follows: today, street party with a mini fashion show, with special guest celebrities, food sampling and a laser light show; Nov. 17-18, family entertainment such as clowns, acrobats, monocyclists and other treats. During the same dates, a "Hot Van, Hot Brands" promo shall include shops which will offer special discounts at specific time of the day plus special treats to every shopper.

The Outlet Yard boasts of retail outlets housed in a unique 20-ft container vans strategically designed all over a sprawling 1,000-sq m lot. Among the famous brands available at The Outlet Yard are retail stores: Penshoppe, Maldita, Dickies, Great Brands (Sari-Sari, Bench and Triumph), Hammerhead, Maxitoy Lab, Skecherse, Girl Studio, Shainine, Parfalt, No Logo, Michelet, Kaya, Draw de Nach, Kid's n Fun, People's Republic, Hush Pupples, Fred Perry, Limited, Maxibear, Airwalk, Jourdan et Cle, Converse, Bluegum, American Fits, Big Heart, British Highlights, Koochi Koochi, SK, Brands for Less and Mint.

The Outlet Yard is the best place to spend your money because of its "value retail" concept. What is available in the stores are not knockoffs, but 100 percent genuine products at off-price or at discounted prices. Although most of the items are past season or last few pieces or cancelled stocks as the merchandise in US factory outlets, the products are still of the same good quality you see in regular stores.

Sali na sa TALK 'N TEXT GSM & ALCATEL

Go Handsfree, Bag a Freebie!

Get a Talk 'N Text Alcatel OT300 for only P3,990 at may Alcatel Backpack ka - LIBRE!

Go handsfree sa speakerphone function plus enjoy great features:
W@p Capable · GSM Dual-band 900 & 1800 MHz
Up To 165 Hours Standby Time
Silent Vibrating System · SMS with Predictive Text Input
SMS Template · Calculator · Currency Conversion
15 Ringtones · 200 Number Phonebook Memory on SIM
Date/Clock/Alarm Clock · Built-in 3 Games
5-Line Screen · 3-Position Navigation Button

Also comes in four great colors
Blue Grey · Lichen Green · Deep Purple · Anthracite Black

Look for this sticker when you buy an OT300 phone kit from your nearest authorized Talk 'N Text dealers

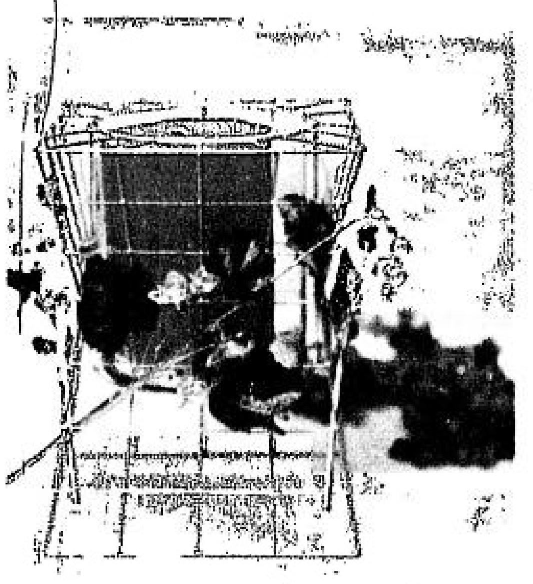
Actual appearance of backpack may vary from photo
Promo good from Nov. 16 to Dec. 31, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3796, Series of 2001

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

Bring holiday cheer home



TIME TO CELEBRATE. A red scented candle in a silver chrome candleholder adds a sense of warmth and welcome this Christmas.

WELCOME Christmas with a house full of festive furniture and accessories from Our Home.

SM's lifestyle store shows how one can give a modern, minimalist twist to the traditional green and red Christmas palette.

To achieve this, simply coordinate furniture and accessories in these traditional Christmas colors—like a red sofa with green and white cushions to showcase the season's exuberance and joy.

Candles. Groupings of artistically molded candles in tree, ball and holly designs can bring cheer as corner accents. Or place a red scented candle in a silver chrome candleholder to add a touch of elegance to your room.

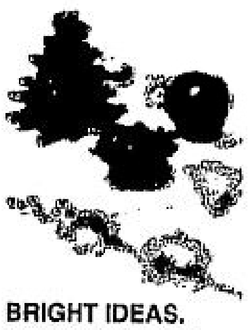
Tabletop décors. Centerpieces—wreaths, floral and candle arrangements—easily give guests a warm welcome.

Cushions. Cushions that say Christmas—in red and green velvet and satin, or in whimsical designs in *sinamay*—are not only cozy, but give one great reason to celebrate.

Festive feasting. Arrange your Christmas dinner table with red and green tableware and accessories.

Celebrate Christmas with furniture and accessories from Our Home, LG/L SM Megamall, Mega A.

A BOUNTY BUFFET FOR ALL. This red and green themed dining room perfectly compliments these Margie oakwood dining set and Shamus oakwood console table.



BRIGHT IDEAS. Artistically molded candles in Christmas tree, ball and holly designs brighten up this season.

STARTING NOV.11,

SUNDAYS

WILL NEVER BE

THE SAME AGAIN.

FLAVOURS AND SPICES

For Sundays that are out of the ordinary.

For reservations: 894-5624 to 25

Garden Square Bldg.
Greenbelt Drive, corner Legaspi St.
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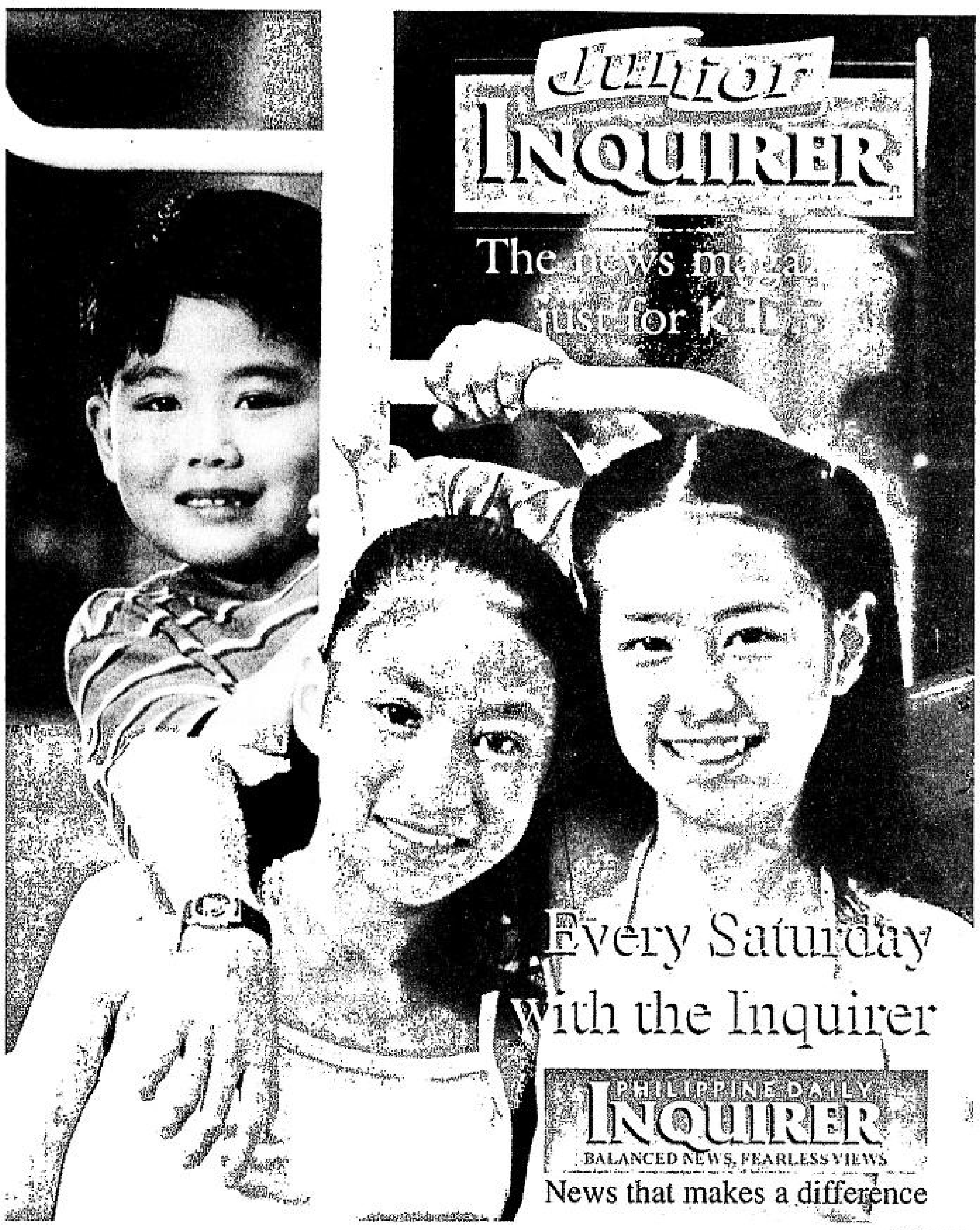
Junior INQUIRER
The news mag just for KIDS
Every Saturday with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

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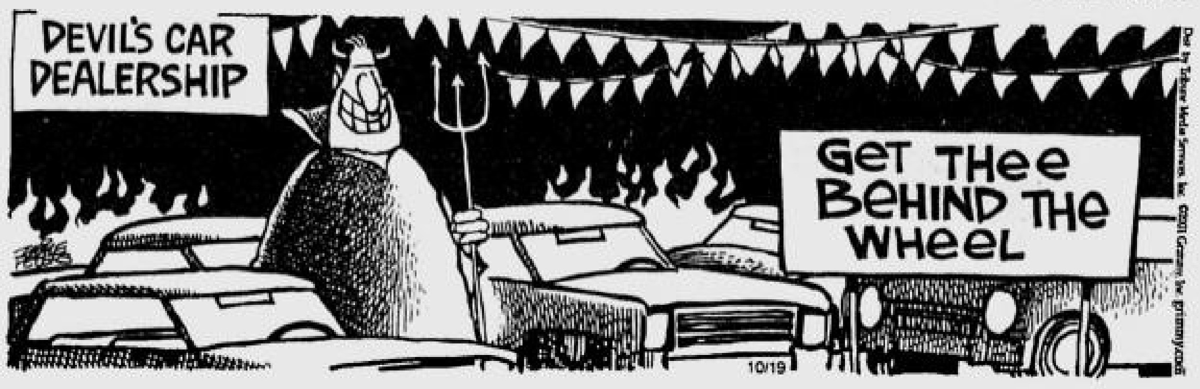
LIMITED MINT EDITION
Kit Kat
Nestlé KitKat MINT
Breaking at all Star MART outlets, groceries and supermarkets nationwide.
Have a Break, Have a NEW KIT KAT MINT

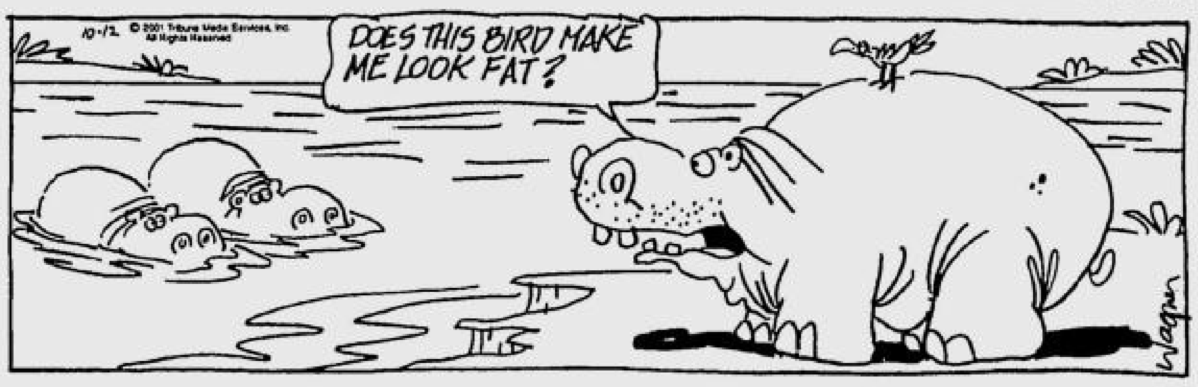
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DEVIL'S CAR DEALERSHIP
GET THEE BEHIND THE WHEEL
10/19

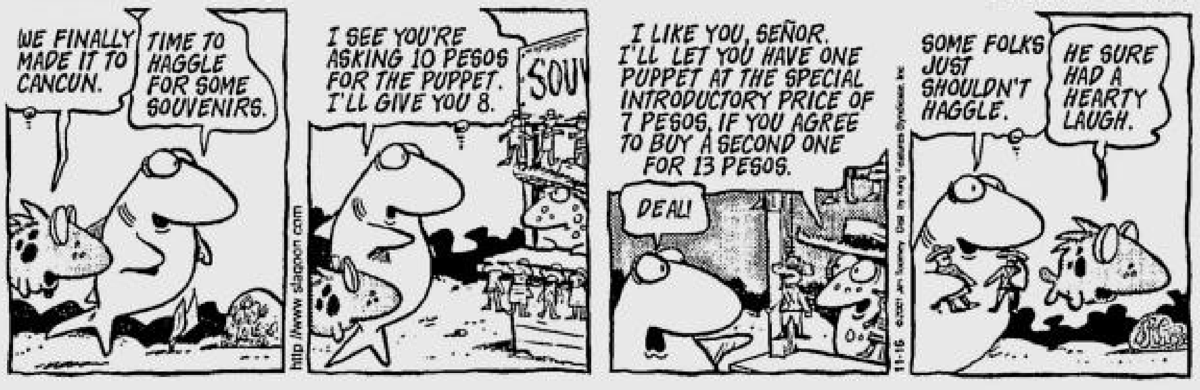
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


10-12 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
DOES THIS BIRD MAKE ME LOOK FAT?
Wagner

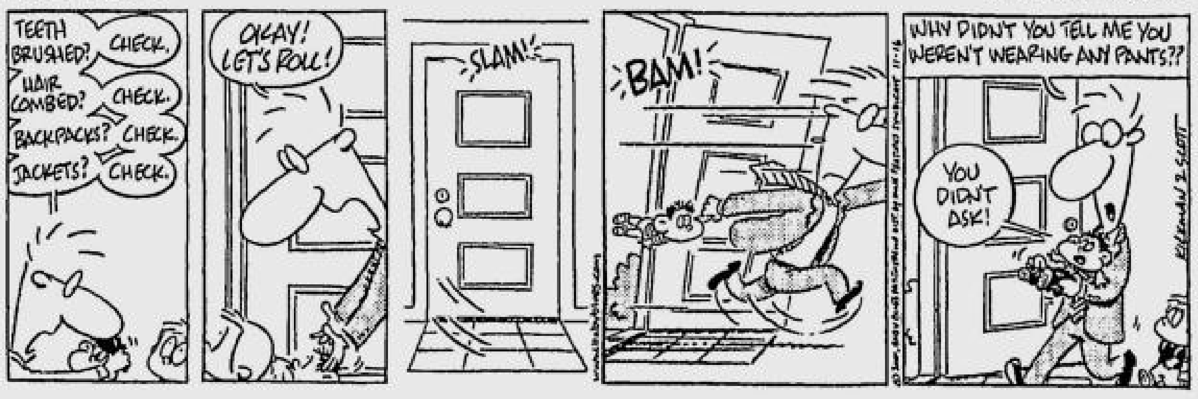
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WE FINALLY MADE IT TO CANCUN.
TIME TO HAGGLE FOR SOME SOUVENIRS.
I SEE YOU'RE ASKING 10 PESOS FOR THE PUPPET. I'LL GIVE YOU 8.
SOU
http://www.slagoon.com
I LIKE YOU, SEÑOR. I'LL LET YOU HAVE ONE PUPPET AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF 7 PESOS, IF YOU AGREE TO BUY A SECOND ONE FOR 13 PESOS.
DEAL!
11-16
SOME FOLKS JUST SHOULDN'T HAGGLE.
HE SURE HAD A HEARTY LAUGH.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


TEETH BRUSHED?
CHECK.
HAIR COMBED?
CHECK.
BACKPACKS?
CHECK.
JACKETS?
CHECK.
OKAY! LET'S ROLL!
SLAM!
BAM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WEREN'T WEARING ANY PANTS??
YOU DIDN'T ASK!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Terry Labonte, Marg Helgenberger, Lisa Bonet, Martha Plimpton, Diana Krall
Happy Birthday: Keep your personal and professional lives separate to achieve your goals this year. Both areas are equally important and need to be nurtured. Organize your time wisely so you don't miss out on any opportunities. If you are well-informed and astute, you will do well. Your numbers: 9, 12, 14, 27, 31, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may need to scramble to tie up loose ends before the weekend. Paying attention to the details and meeting all your deadlines would impress the people who can influence your future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are in a high cycle for travel, education and creative endeavors, but will have to be extremely careful with money and investments. Plan an inexpensive but educational and inspiring trip.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be compassionate and considerate, and you will get along well with others. The more honest you are, the better the results. You can make changes by being upfront.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Choose someone to spend time with today or you may become caught in the middle of an argument that has nothing to do with you. Taking sides will make matters worse. Do what you enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan a fun-filled day and an entertaining evening away from people who are argumentative or in a bad frame of mind. Surround yourself with movers and shakers for the time-being.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mellow out and refuse to get wrapped up in other people's melodrama. Follow your own path to prepare for whatever you want to do next. Your composure will help calm others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't push your luck with those in influential positions. Make sure your legal papers are in proper order and updated. The sooner you clear things up, the better you will feel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do something entertaining and enjoyable today, but don't go overboard in spending. If you decide to join a club, pick one that isn't exorbitant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make plans, or you will become bored and restless today. Travel or intellectual pursuits will provide stimulation and excitement. If no one will join you, go alone and meet new people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should be smoothing out any imperfections in your ideas and waiting for the best time to present them. Be assured that someone will try to take credit for your work.

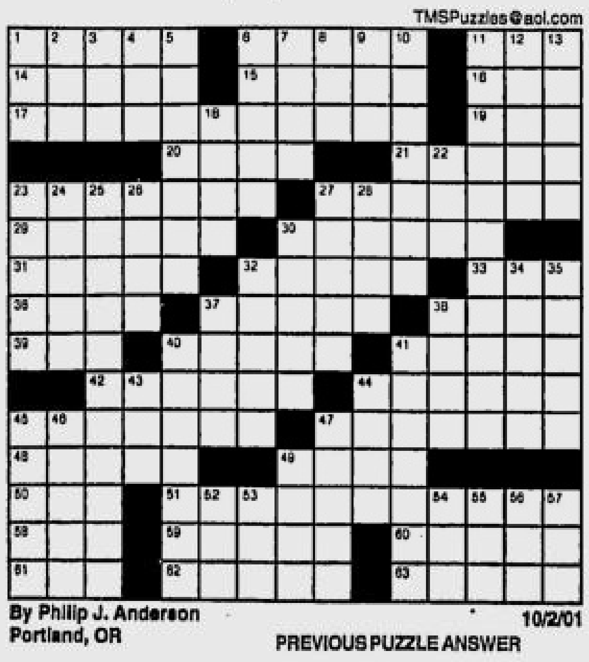
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. If someone wants to borrow or entice you into expensive entertainment, don't be embarrassed to say you can't afford it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't say anything you might regret later. Misinterpretation will leave you in a difficult position. You will enjoy large groups where you can listen, learn and meet new friends.

Birthday Baby: You are a wanderer and an adventurer. You will always be where the action is and gravitate toward the fast lane.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/2/01

ACROSS
1 Come to a point
6 Use elbow grease
11 6-pointers
14 Nimble
15 Coarse, twilled cotton fabric
16 Shoe-box letters
17 Movie fans' preference?
19 Grp. of gridders
20 Writer Ferber
21 Disney World draw
23 Political exile
27 Sousa's forte
29 Chalk remover
30 Stegner novel, "Angle of __"
31 Sheltered bays
32 Flatfishes
33 Ship deserter
36 Ruckuses
37 Closes
38 Capital on a fjord
39 Apiece
40 Mirror
41 Con man
42 Time of glacial dominance
44 Dimension estimators
45 Senses
47 Alternative to pasta
48 Pieces for two
49 Saint's aura
50 Harris and O'Neill
51 Local preference?
58 In the past
59 In the know
60 Nary a soul
61 Writer Deighton
62 Burpee buy
63 Move in a sudden sweep

DOWN
1 Scottish topper
2 Turkish honcho
3 Colliers' workplace
4 Actor Wallach
5 Bridge blunders
6 Act subdivision
7 Aromatic annual plant
8 Make free (of)
9 One in Madrid
10 Very short jackets
11 Class preference?
12 "Moll Flanders" author
13 Splinter groups
18 German river
22 Individual Apples
23 Story so far, briefly
24 Wear away
25 Electors' preference?
26 Various functions
27 Thaws
28 Mimics
30 Wake
32 Uneven cuts
34 Warn
35 Body bulk
37 Thin strip
38 Greek drink
40 Japanese entertainers
41 Repudiates
43 Allotted portion
44 Grain depository
45 Perfect
46 Jog with the elbow
47 Deserves
49 Group of gnus
52 Be in debt
53 Miss West
54 At present
55 Vocalize displeasure
56 Lennon's love
57 Slangy okay

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

F	A	R	O	■	I	L	E	S	■	R	E	A	C	T
A	M	E	N	■	N	A	V	E	■	E	R	R	O	R
R	O	B	E	R	T	P	I	N	■	M	A	T	T	E
E	R	A	■	E	A	S	E	S	■	A	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	P	A	C	E	■	A	D	I	E	U	■	■
A	B	J	E	C	T	■	S	T	U	N	■	R	S	T
C	L	O	T	H	■	M	A	I	D	S	■	D	E	E
O	O	H	S	■	S	I	L	O	S	■	R	E	N	E
R	A	N	■	R	I	S	E	N	■	B	A	C	O	N
N	T	H	■	O	R	T	S	■	F	A	V	O	R	S
■	■	A	R	I	E	L	■	F	I	L	E	■	■	■
G	A	M	E	S	■	E	A	R	L	S	■	I	D	S
U	N	M	E	T	■	T	H	O	M	A	S	C	A	T
S	T	E	V	E	■	O	O	Z	E	■	P	O	N	E
H	I	R	E	R	■	E	Y	E	D	■	A	N	A	T

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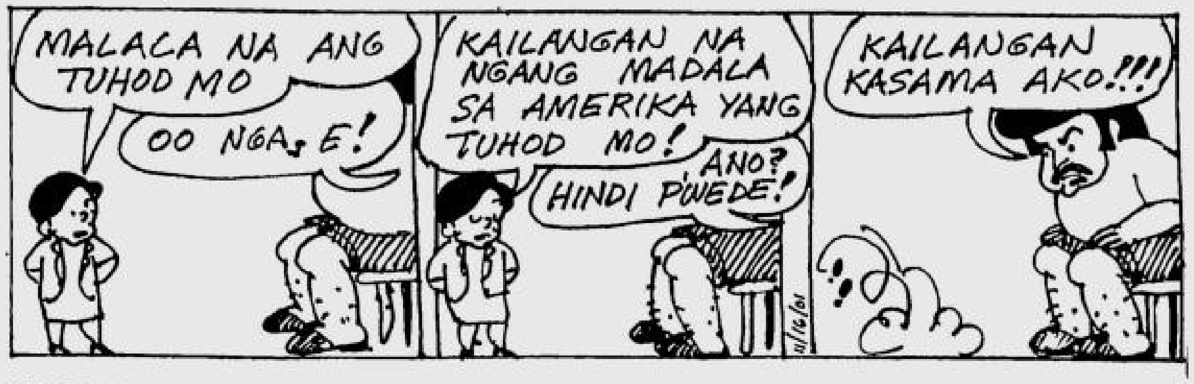
10/2/01

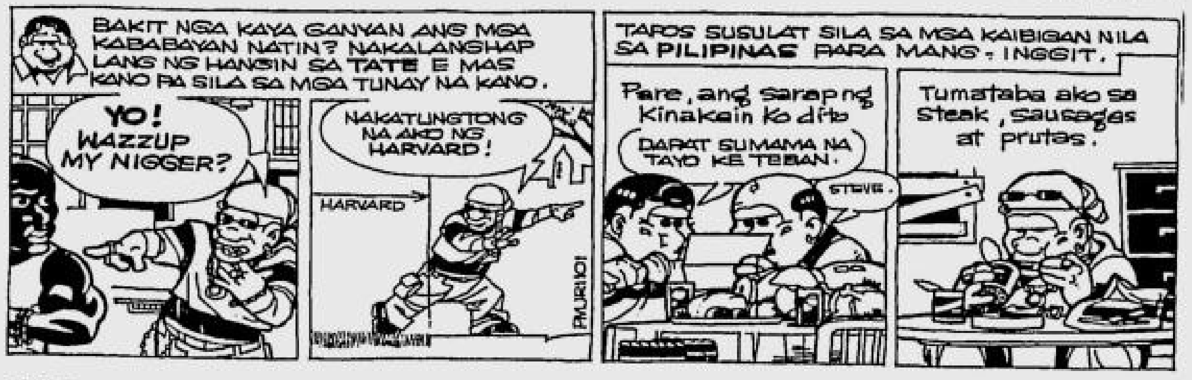
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERÁ


MALACA NA ANG TUHOD MO
OO NGA, E!
KAILANGAN NA NGANG MADALA SA AMERIKA YANG TUHOD MO!
ANO? HINDI PWEDE!
11/16/01
KAILANGAN KASAMA AKO!!!

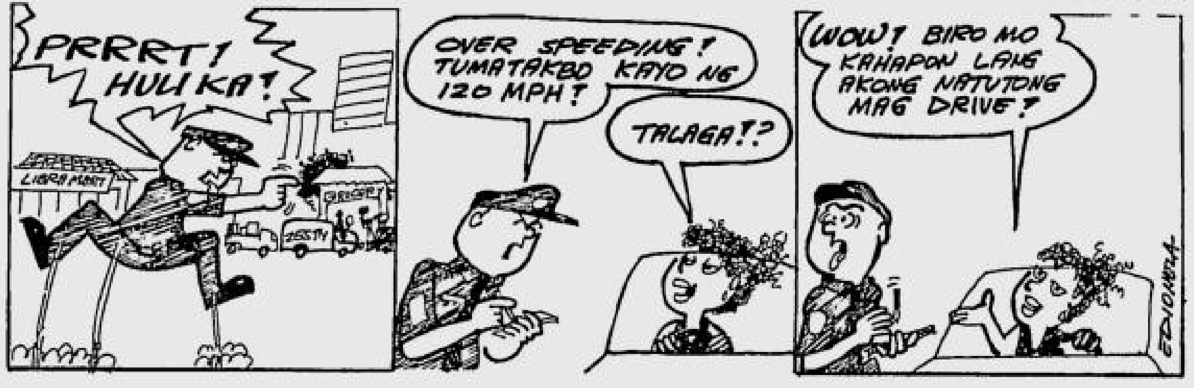
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT NGA KAYA GANYAN ANG MGA KABABAYAN NATIN? NAKALANGHAP LANG NG HANGIN SA TATE E MAS KANO PA SILA SA MGA TUNAY NA KANO.
YO! WAZZUP MY NIGGER?
NAKATUNGTONG NA AKO NG HARVARD!
HARVARD
PMJR1101
TAPOS SUSULAT SILA SA MGA KAIBIGAN NILA SA PILIPINAS PARA MANG - INGGIT.
Pare, ang sarap ng Kinakain ko dito
DAPAT SUMAMA NA TAYO KE TEBAN.
STEVE.
Tumataba ako sa steak, sausages at prutas.

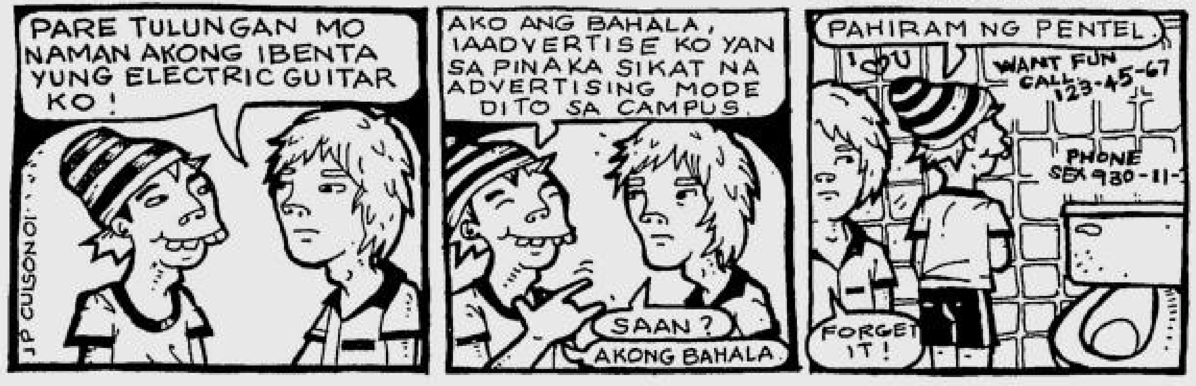
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRRRT! HULI KA!
LIBRA MANT
OVER SPEEDING! TUMATAKBO KAYO NG 120 MPH!
TALAGA!?
WOW! BIRO MO KAHAPON LANG AKONG NATUTONG MAG DRIVE!
EDIONELA

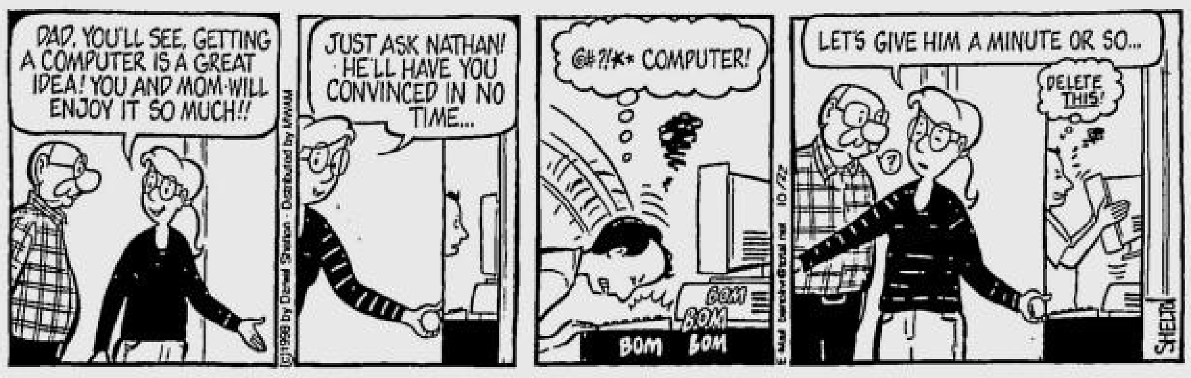
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


PARE TULUNGAN MO NAMAN AKONG IBENTA YUNG ELECTRIC GUITAR KO!
JP CULSON 01
AKO ANG BAHALA, IAADVERTISE KO YAN SA PINAKA SIKAT NA ADVERTISING MODE DITO SA CAMPUS.
SAAN?
AKONG BAHALA
PAHIRAM NG PENTEL
WANT FUN CALL 123-45-67
PHONE SEX 930-11-
FORGET IT!

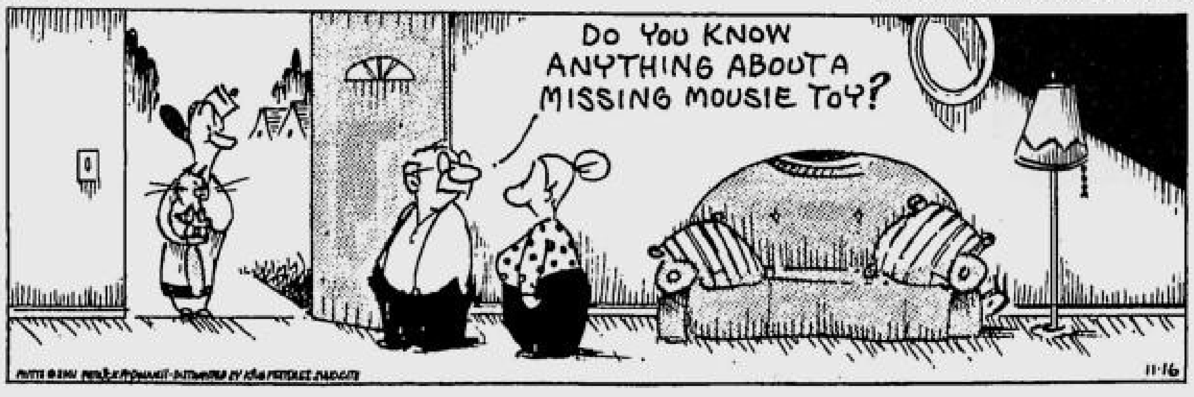
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, YOU'LL SEE, GETTING A COMPUTER IS A GREAT IDEA! YOU AND MOM WILL ENJOY IT SO MUCH!!
JUST ASK NATHAN! HE'LL HAVE YOU CONVINCED IN NO TIME...
©1998 by Daniel Shelton · Distributed by MWAM
@#?!*$ COMPUTER!
BOM BOM BOM BOM
10/22
LET'S GIVE HIM A MINUTE OR SO...
DELETE THIS!
SHELTON

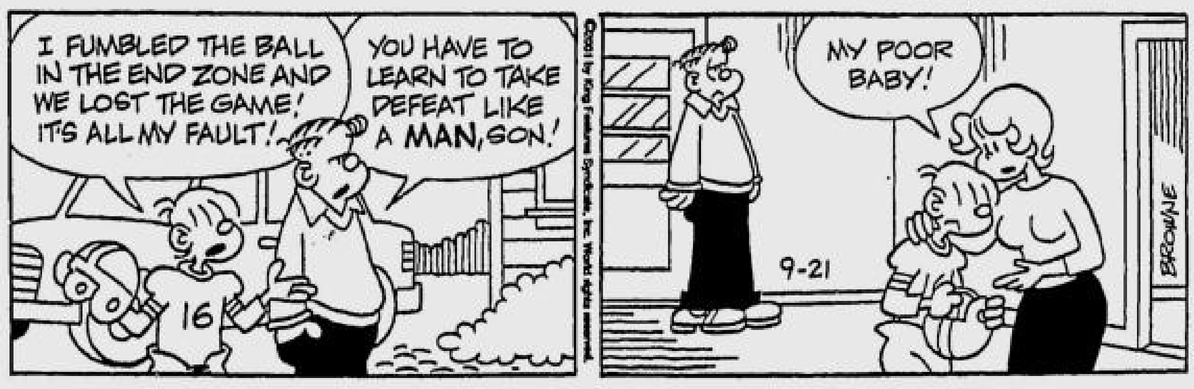
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MISSING MOUSIE TOY?
11-16

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I FUMBLED THE BALL IN THE END ZONE AND WE LOST THE GAME! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO TAKE DEFEAT LIKE A MAN, SON!
16
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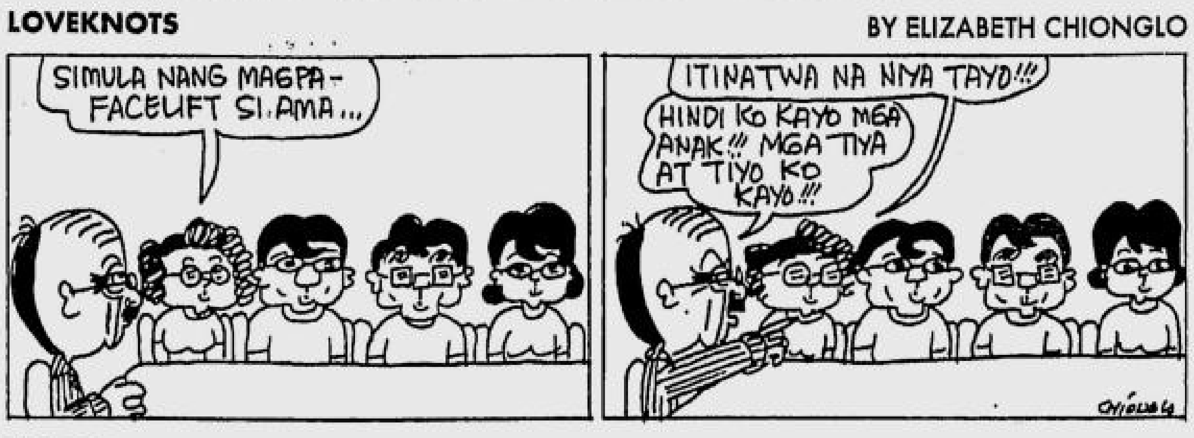
9-21
MY POOR BABY!
BROWNE

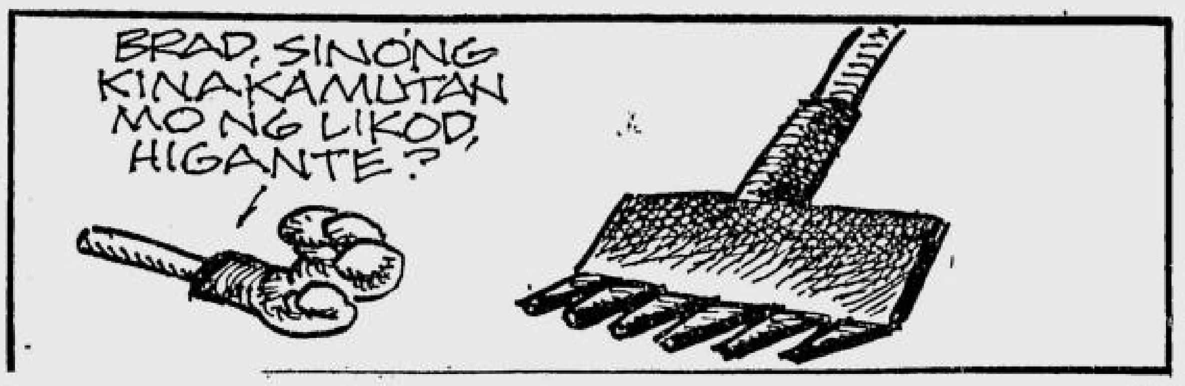
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIMULA NANG MAGPA-FACELIFT SI AMA...
ITINATWA NA NIYA TAYO!!!
HINDI KO KAYO MGA ANAK!!! MGA TIYA AT TIYO KO KAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BRAD, SINONG KINAKAMUTAN MO NG LIKOD, HIGANTE?

Festival of trees will benefit coastal areas

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THIS November, the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Makati Garden Club (MGC) are holding their annual Festival of Trees fund-raiser to save three ecologically threatened coastal areas in the country.

The PBSP-MGC collaboration, now on its seventh year, is one in which the PBSP targets the project areas, and the MGC raises the funds to undertake the work. This year's beneficiaries are Maqueda Bay in Samar, Ragay Gulf in Quezon, and Olango Island in Cebu. The very first project in 1995 was a reforestation program in Antique province. In 1996, Maqueda Bay was made a project site to improve the living conditions of some 800 members of a fishing community. It continues to be a beneficiary until now.

In Ragay Gulf, the PBSP-MGC team aims to provide livelihood sources for 29,000 families, establish marine sanctuaries and reforest denuded mangrove areas. Olango Island is being turned into a haven for thousands of migratory birds seeking a warmer clime during cold months elsewhere.

The festival is also soliciting corporate sponsorship for other projects like Establish-a-Marine Hatchery, Broodstock Development, Adopt-a-Marine Sanctuary, Reforest-a-Mangrove Area and others.

During the festival, which will be held Nov. 21 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, beautiful Christmas trees and decorations donated by their makers will be put on public auction, as well several artworks offered by the artists themselves. A silent auction will be held for a painting by Anita Magsaysay-Ho priced at P3 million. The total amount expected to be raised this year is P10 million.

Jubilee Homes for the needy and the environment

ONE recalls that in 1999, former United States President Jimmy Carter led 12,000 Filipino volunteers in building 293 houses for marginalized families in Maragondon, Cavite. Building such houses is the commitment of Habitat for Humanity International, which sets up local offices in the countries in which it operates.

The Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) has been building houses in other sites since 1988. Habitat Philippines is the national organization that carries out the organization's mission of poverty housing here. It now cooperates with Jubilee Homes for the Poor, a parallel project undertaken jointly by Solidarity Fund Foundation, and Council of the Laity of the Philippines, both under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Jubilee Homes funds and transfers to qualified Filipino families of any faith 600 Habitat-type houses built on any of the HFH sites nationwide or, collectively, on a Jubilee Village area. Houses in a Montalban site are expected to be occupied by January 2002.

An interesting feature of Jubilee Homes projects is the inclusion of Jubilee Village Community Services for all beneficiaries. Jubilee Homes will be made available for P800 a month. While the tenants are not exactly the poorest of the poor, they may serve those in that category in a Jubilee Village through the community services offered.

Community services include sustainable livelihood and development, sanitation and primary health care, conservation and care of the environment and ecosystems. Sanitation and health services go hand in hand with environmental care and conservation, two aspects of community service that are sometimes overlooked in other social work and conservation projects.

The health and sanitation programs upgrade standards in the community by providing clean water, toilet facilities, drainage, waste collection and disposal systems, and maintenance of cleanliness in the community.

Other community projects lined up for the conservation of the ecosystem and environmental care are tree planting, bird sanctuaries, butterfly breeding stations, rain water collection system, composting and recycling and waste reduction. These programs aim to instill in community members the resolve to care for Mother Earth and God's creations.

Offices of Jubilee Homes and the Jubilee Village Community Services are at the Pius XII Catholic Center, United Nations Avenue, Manila, tel. 527-9028/5331.

Marathon run for Pasig river rehab

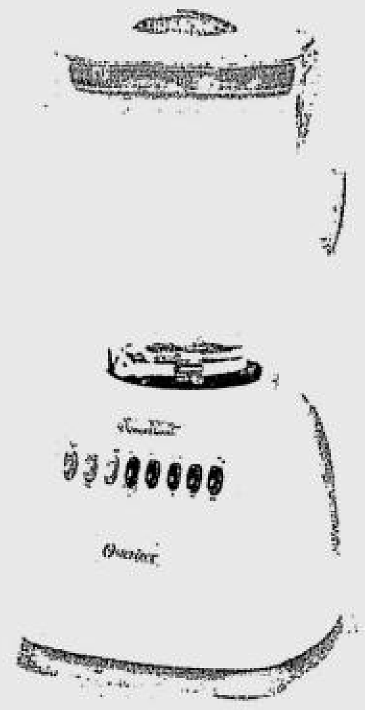
RUNNING aficionados are shaping up to participate in the annual Pasig River Heritage (PRH) Marathon scheduled for 4 p.m., Feb. 24, 2002. The run will start on Aduana Street, Intramuros, Manila, and will finish at The Fort, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, MM.

As an environmental as well as sporting event, the marathon will take participants through road networks along the banks and over the Pasig River through 10 of its major bridges, from Del Pan Roxas Bridge at the mouth of the Pasig River and Manila Bay, to C5/President Garcia Bridge near Laguna de Bay.

Organizers are the Clean & Green Foundation Inc. and its funding arm, Piso Para sa Pasig; Gomburza; Archdiocese of Manila; Caritas Manila; Sagip Pasig Movement; Riverwatch; React-Philippines; Philippine Army; and Philippine Amateur Track & Field Association (Patafa). The marathon is endorsed by the Department of Interior and Local Government and Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

The PRH marathon is a major sporting event equal to international counterparts. It is held annually to sustain public awareness of the importance of rehabilitating Manila's premier river.

This model's got smoother curves.



Introducing, the new Osterizer Cube Series 10-speed and 12-speed models. *Looks sleeker and has more power for your grating, whipping, crushing, grinding and blending needs. Let's see if competition can beat that.*

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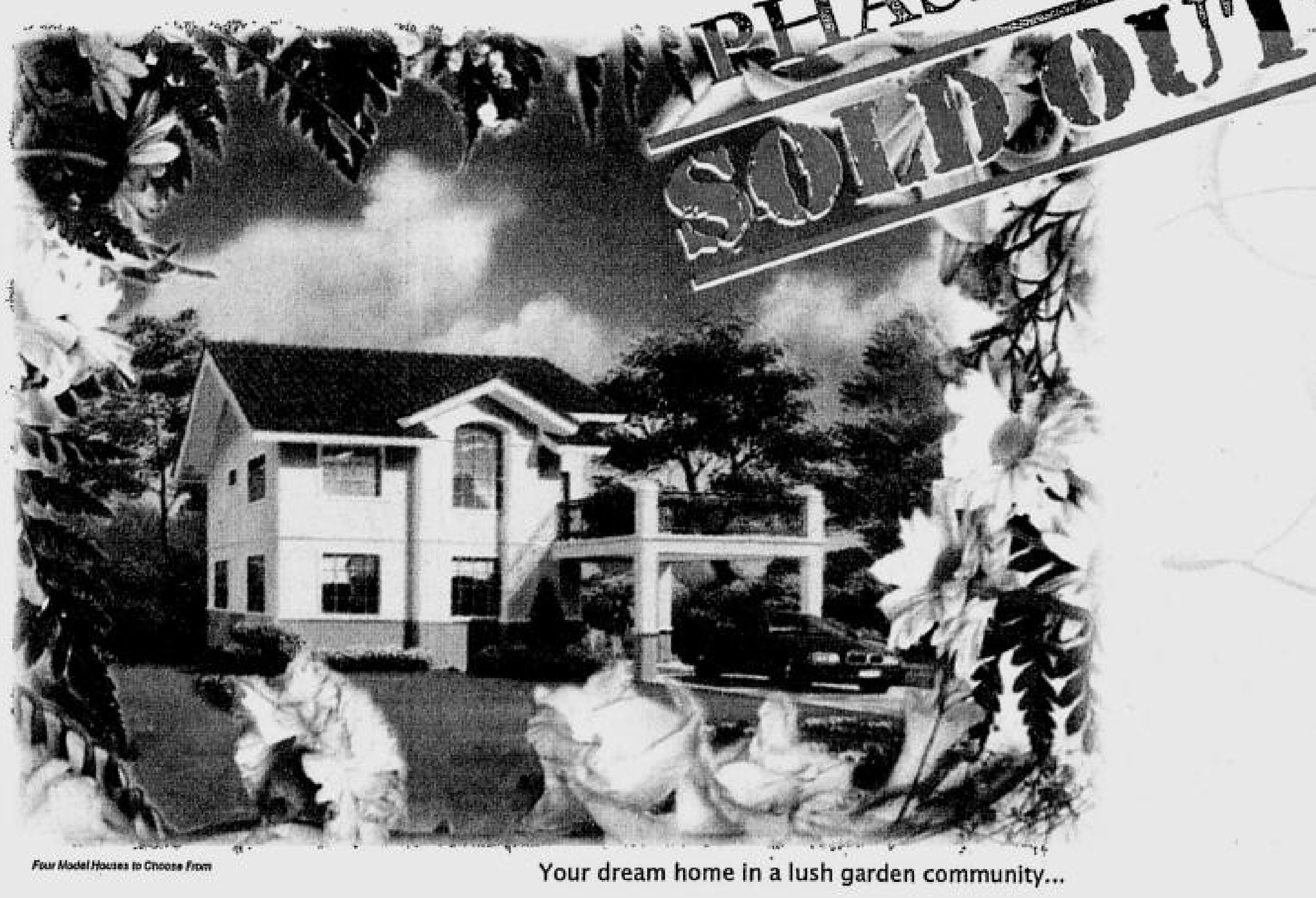

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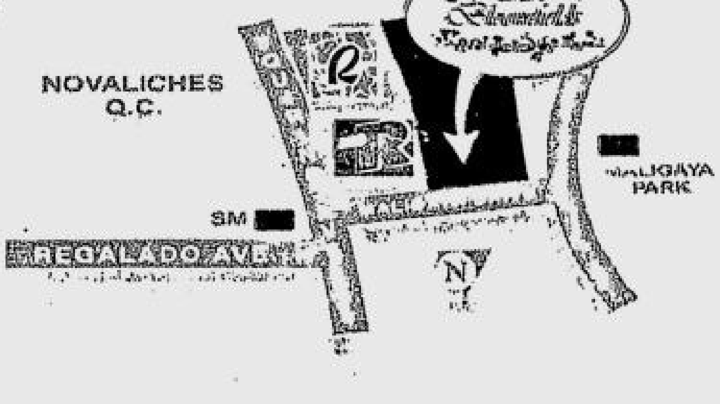

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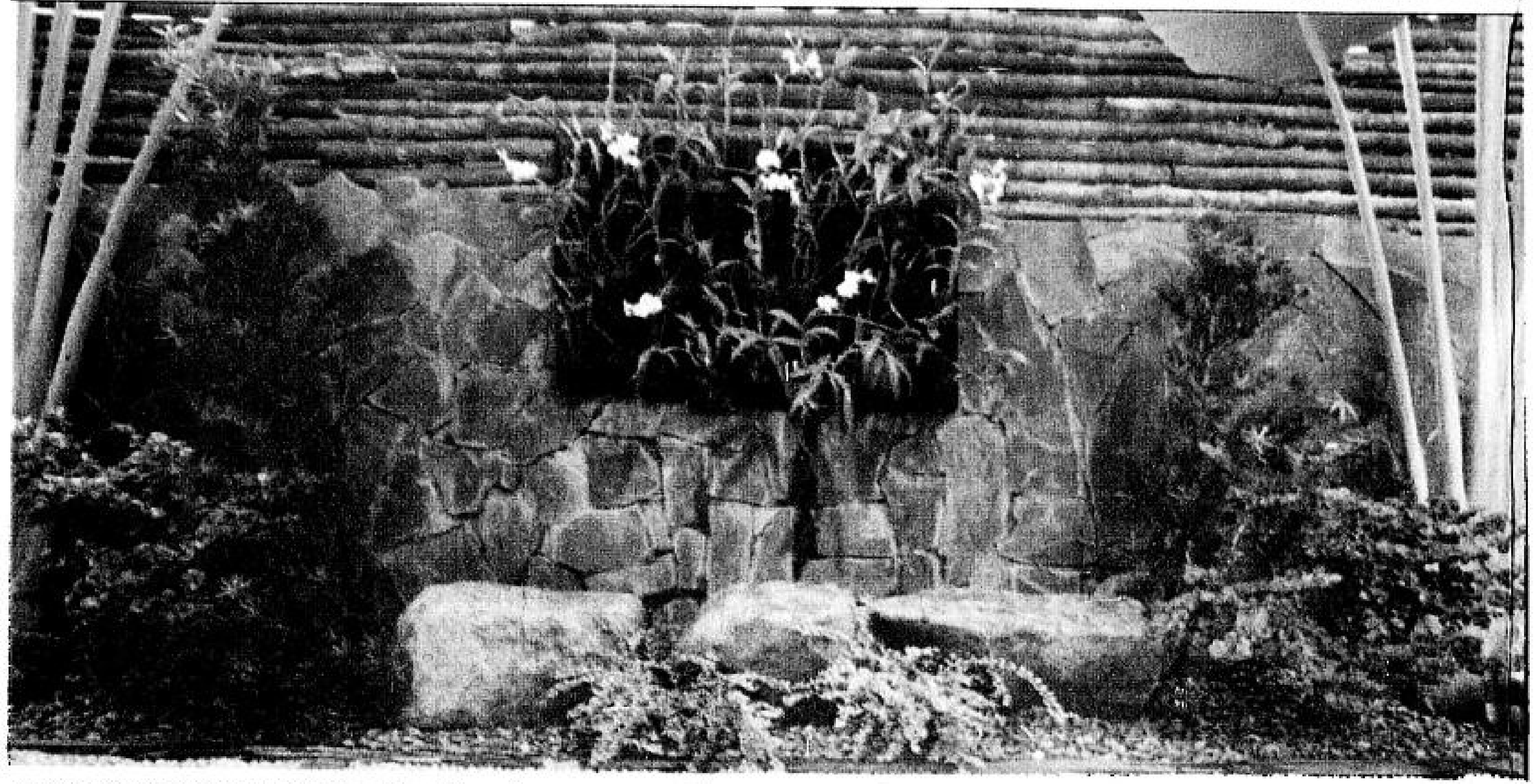


ORCHIDS and ferns mounted on black tree ferns

For urban homes, a straightforward garden is ideal

(From page G4)

overlapping branches. It was a polite way of telling the neighbors to keep their pets where they should be.

"I am not one of those who go for the nature look," he explains while he shows off the fernery and the orchid corner across the lanai. Traditional landscapers would have used living trees to mount orchids and ferns so it will look like a forest scene. But Lilles covered the entire wall with slabs of black fern where the aerial plants are now growing very well.

Subdivision gardens

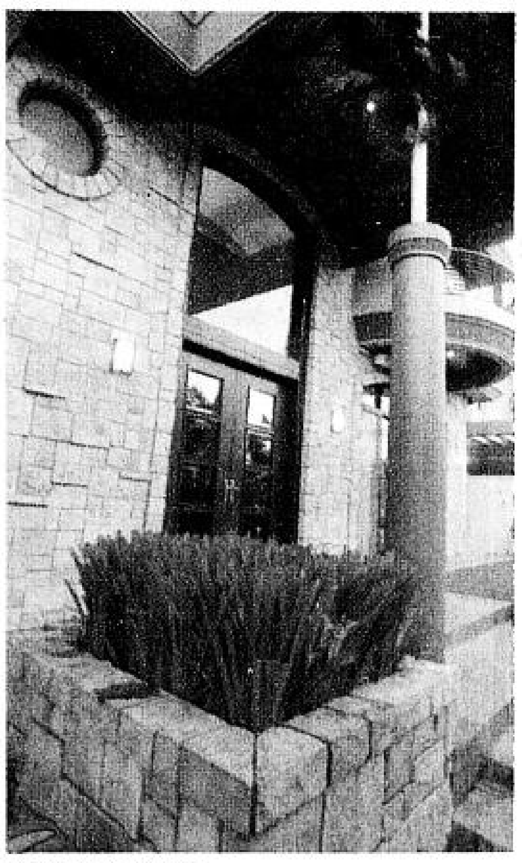
"I choose plants that are proportional to the size of the garden. Since the typical size of subdivision lots are small, make good use of every available space." Lilles shares his experience with home gardeners. "Avoid cramming plants and trees together. A small garden has no excuse to be devoid of rhyme or reason, so plan the landscape very well. Everything that you put in the garden must have its reason for being there."

Lilles' garden is limited to the 2-meter clearance around the house. But with his creativity and ideas borrowed from the small gardens he visited abroad, it has become a showcase of an ideal subdivision garden.

"Visit other gardens and read books and magazine to get ideas and inspiration," he advised.

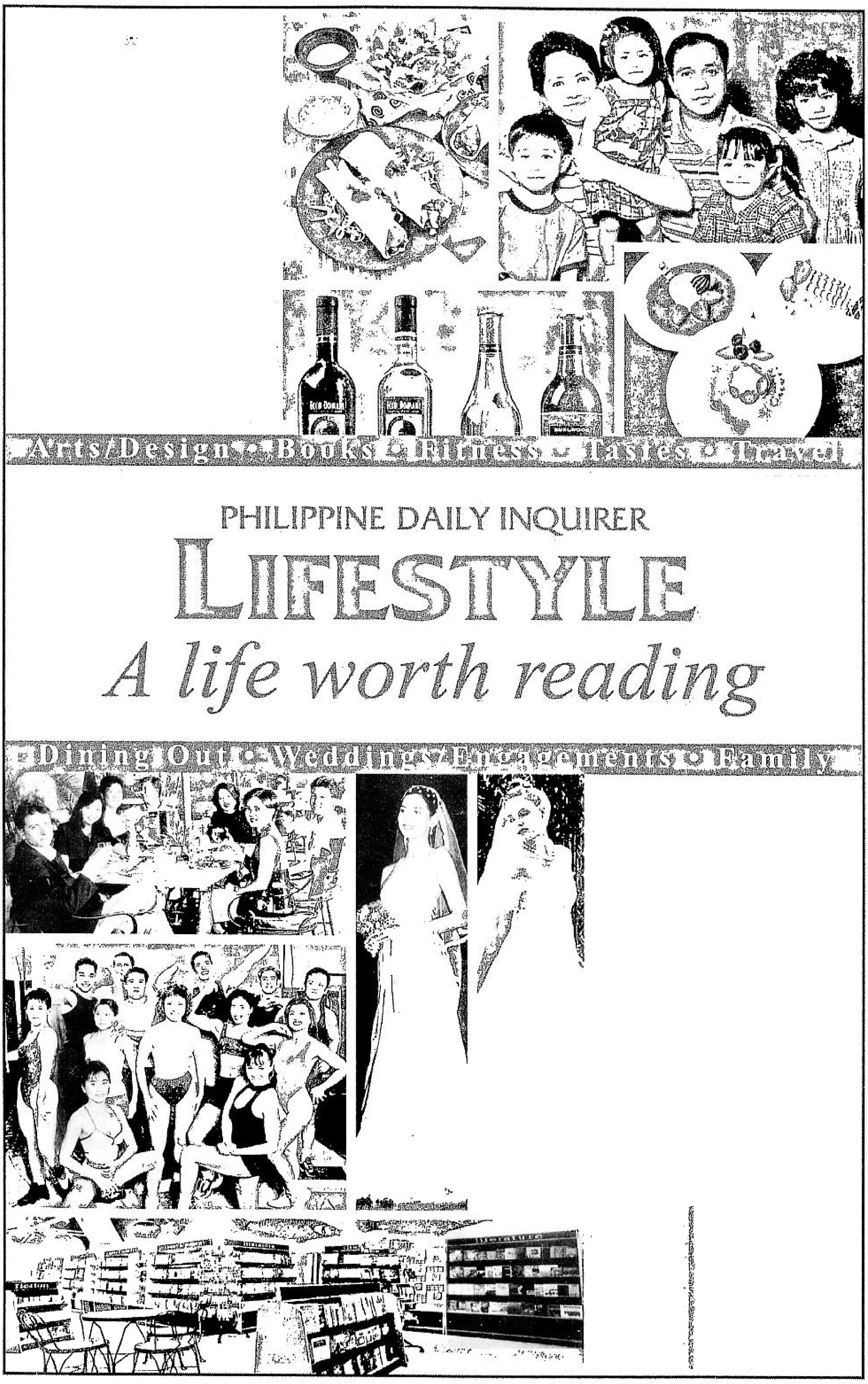
For more ideas on subdivision home gardens, the kind that comes with homes sold by Lilles, call 726-4371.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph



IRISLIKE plants

NARROW pathway paved with Boracay sand. Lazy bamboos provide greenery.



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House on a hill

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Photos by Bobot Meru

MODERN Philippine architecture is celebrated in design splendor in the hills of Antipolo. Matching form with the rugged landscape and steep slopes, the house is a tribute to the Filipino style that has progressed through the centuries, enabling us to get closer views of the elements so familiar to us and are now being given a fresh perspective. It is not Balinese, Thai or generic Asian. It is a symphony of materials that embrace the true Philippine essence.

Indeed this stunning abode metamorphosed from the traditional *bahay kubo*—the Filipino *balai* vernacular—with the simplicity that we know. Beyond the *bahay na bato* images, romantically linked in our memories, and portions of indigenous materials, tucked here and there among accents and furnishings, the house exemplifies the underlying design purposes and principles that have to be wonderfully kept and nurtured. These concepts, when understood and adapted to current use, allow us to move toward growth and appreciation. It is growth in the Filipino spirit as seen in architecture, interiors and furniture design.

In this architectural masterpiece, the design principles are seen in every corner, in every detail. In this veritable showcase of a personal collection of furniture, the design language shifts toward the vernacular, with pride and elegance, with love and appreciation for our very own.

This is the home of Benjamin Leonardo and Carina Reyes. Benji is an acknowledged master furniture sculptor while wife Careng is the business manager. Their home is a reflection of the synergism of their marriage and partnership, the fulfillment of a promise Benji once made to his wife that he would

HOUSE/p.H6

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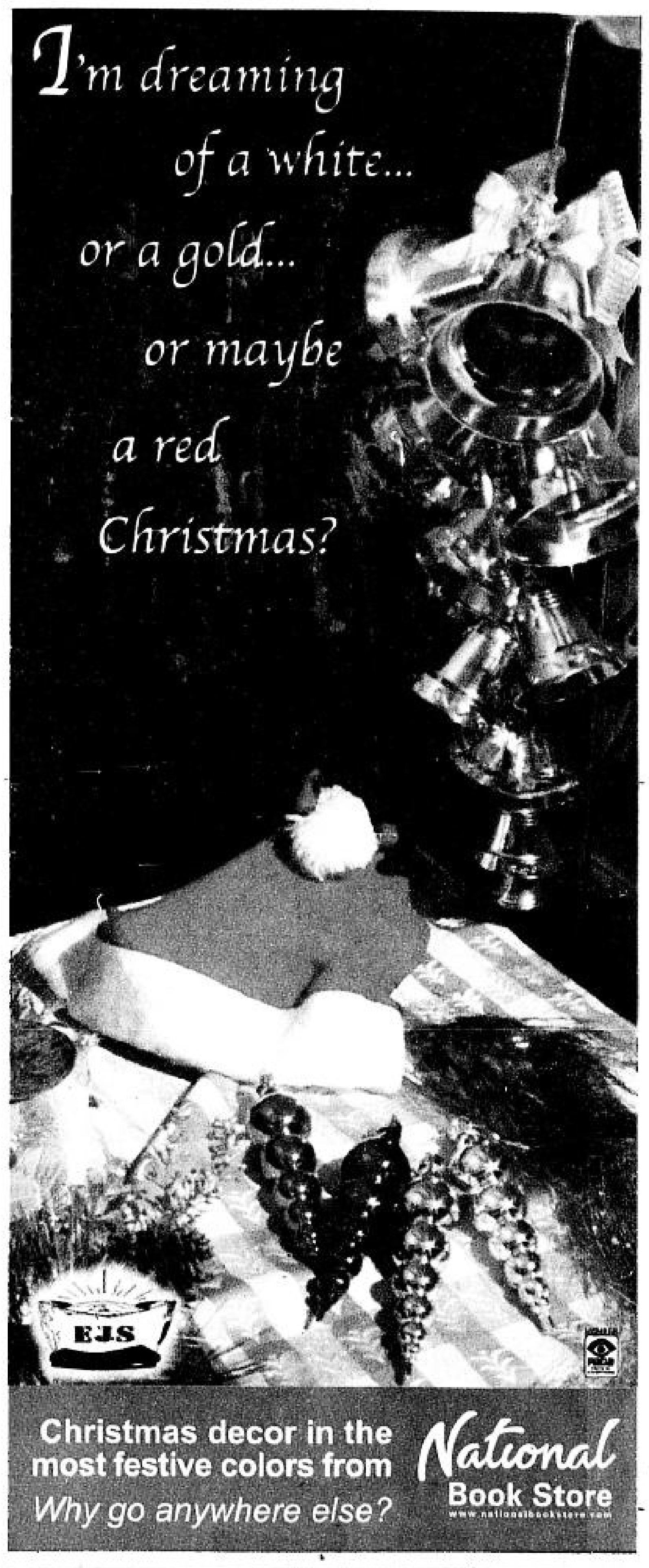
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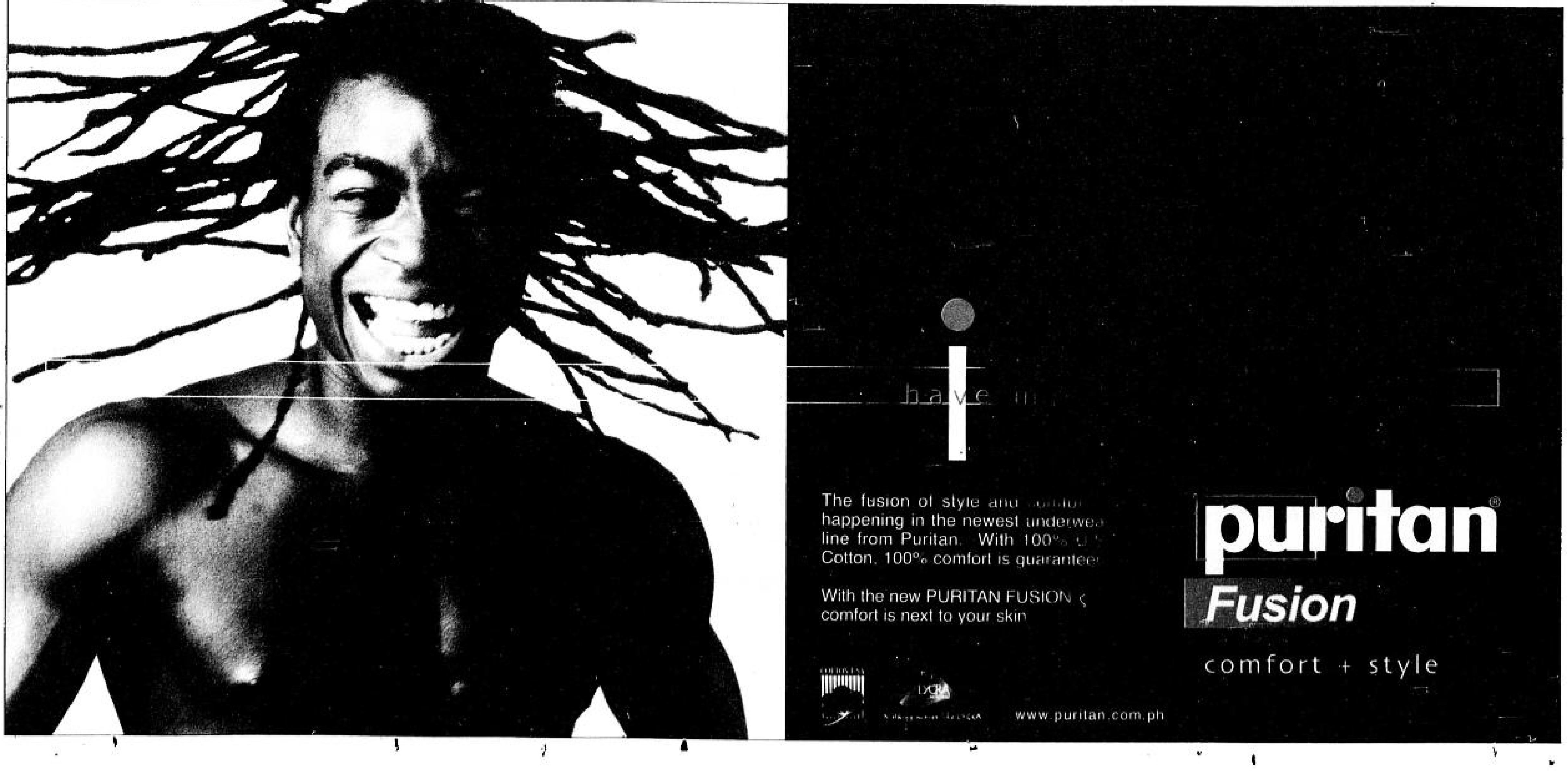
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Here's how you can win one!

1. This promo is valid at any Metro Manila grocery or supermarket that produces an itemized receipt. Promo starts September 15 and ends on December 31, 2001.
2. Simply buy 1 Sue Bee Honey in the 8 oz., 12 oz., 16 oz., or 24 oz. jar/bottle or Aunt Sue Honey in the 16 oz., 32 oz., or 48 oz. jar/bottle. On a piece of paper, write your complete name, address, age, and signature and, together with the proof of purchase (receipt) itemizing your Sue Bee or Aunt Sue purchase, and drop at designated boxes located at major groceries and supermarkets. Or send your entry to:

   Sue Bee Kitchen Showcase
   c/o Masterminds Asia Communications
   1605 Jollibee Plaza
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
   Pasig City
   1600 Metro Manila

3. The raffle will be held on January 11, 2002 at 1605 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1600 Metro Manila.
4. Winners will be drawn at the raffle in the presence of a BFAD representative for the following corresponding prizes:
   - **Consolation Prize** : 10 winners get 1 glass turbo blender each
   - **THIRD PRIZE** : 5 winners get 1 microwave oven each
   - **SECOND PRIZE** : 3 winners get 1 range oven each
   - **GRAND PRIZE** : 1 winner get a Kitchen Showcase (including 1 refrigerator, 1 range oven, 1 microwave oven, 1 blender, and 1 coffeemaker)
5. A winner's name picked more than once will qualify this same winner to the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the discarded prize.
6. Winners will be notified by telegram or registered mail. Their names will also appear in a congratulatory or announcement ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star and Manila Bulletin on January 19, 2002.
7. Winners may claim their respective prizes after the presentation of an identification material (office or school ID, driver's license, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, etc.) at Masterminds Asia Communications, Pasig City (see complete address above in item number 2). Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of sent telegrams or registered mails will be forfeited in favor of Teope Commercial, Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey, subject to the approval of the BFAD.
8. All employees of Teope Commercial (Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey), its suppliers, and its ad agency Masterminds Asia Communications, along with their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity, are disqualified from joining this promo.

* Items shown are not the actual prizes.

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DOH BFAD Permit No.0562 Series of 2001

RACHY AT BORDERS A limited edition of paintings from "Journeast" style icon-turned-artist Rachy Cuna's recent exhibit at the MET Museum are now available exclusively at Borders. Borders, the lifestyle store, is located at the G/F, G.E. Building, 2291 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 813-0112/0121.

Rachy Cuna organizes floral competition

TO ENCOURAGE floral industry in the Philippines, the Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center Inc. and Rachy Z. Cuna will conduct a one-of-a-kind floristry competition. The Rachy Z. Cuna Cup is an award for floral excellence.

This project will involve all interested florists, hobbyists, enthusiasts and flower shop owners. All participants will be categorized into amateurs and professionals.

Guidelines: They must not have won in any floral competition—local, national or international; Pay the participation fee of P2,000. Contestants are required to wear a plain white T-shirt/blouse, blue jeans and comfortable shoes on the day of the contest. No sandals please; contestants should bring their own tools, NT cutter, side cutter, scissors or twig cutter, glue guns with glue sticks. Flowers and foliage will be supplied in all categories.

All entries must be submitted by Nov. 20, 5 p.m. to any of the following: Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center Inc., 6 Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., QC, tel. 725-8986, 411-1486; Casa Flores de Belen, Madison Building, Pasay Road, Makati City, tel. 814-0847, 893-9626; Kyoto Flower Shop, Century Park Hotel, Malate, Manila, tel. 528-8888 local 2070 or 526-1367.

Prizes will be given away: Amateur level—first place, P10,000 in cash and a trophy; second, P7,000 in cash; third, P3,000 in cash. Professional level—first place, P20,000 in cash and a trophy; second, P10,000 in cash; third, P5,000 in cash.

The floristry competition will be held on Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fr. Blanco's Garden, San Agustin, Intramuros, Manila.

Each level will have its own set of board of judges. The names will be announced on the day of the contest.

The feeling is not mutual

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am a 19-year-old graduating student who is very much in love with this half-Filipino, half-German guy. He happens to be my friend and he is currently taking up his master's degree in the school where I am studying. I had boyfriends before and, in fact, one of them was with me for three years, but I never felt the way I do now for this special person.

I am sure that I am in love with him because he is the first man I have included in my prayers, something I never did before. I think the biggest mistake I made in my whole life was falling in love with this person who could not and would not love me in return. I ask myself:

Why did God make me like this? Why did He put people in two categories—the beautiful and the worse? I am the worse. I feel so bad about myself.

He will soon go back to Germany, and I don't want to lose him. Should I tell him how I feel? Or should I keep it to myself and let him go? What shall I do? I'm also afraid to lose his friendship.

MARIA HESS

My dear, you cannot really love anything or anyone you have not owned. Yes, you admire him and will be sorry to see him leave, but you have to accept the fact that he only sees you as a friend. You did not say in your letter if he is attracted to anyone else. This means that he came here to pursue his studies and is not ready for any serious relationship. You have accepted the fact that you have made a mistake falling for someone who cannot love you back.

God did not divide people into good and bad. We have the freedom of the will. It is our choice whether to walk on the right side of the road, or to crisscross in wrong directions. You say you are not beautiful, but you have had boyfriends in the past. This means you have innate charm. What you should do now is to concentrate on your studies so that you will graduate with good grades.

And, no, don't tell him how you feel. Instead, when you get the chance, give him your address and ask him to write to you when he has time. Don't ask for his address. He will give it to you if he also wants to stay in touch. To give yourself a chance for further communication, give him a Philippine-made gift to take home to Germany.

From cloistered Carmelite nuns

WE were given your name and address by a generous person who suggested that we ask to be included in your column.

We are cloistered Carmelite nuns and we are constructing a new monastery, Carmel of Mary, Star of the Sea, in Barangay Plaza Alden, Sitio Balimbing, Tanay, Rizal. We would like to invite readers who would like to share in building this house for our Lord and a dwelling place for Holy Mary.

Any amount coming from a heart that desires to give for the love of God and Mary will be much appreciated. The love offerings for the new monastery may be sent through the Stella Maris Federation of the Carmelite Nuns in the Philippines, c/o P.O. Box 213, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, or you may call (044) 463-1277 for further inquiries.

Spiritual benefactors praying that the new foundation may fulfill perfectly God's holy will will be very much needed also. May God reward your kind response to this letter.

MO. MARIA DE LOS ANGELES
DE JESUS, O. CARM, Coordinator

Dear readers,

There will surely be some of you who have the wherewithal to respond to this request. Those who do not have the budget will, of course, turn to the power of prayer.

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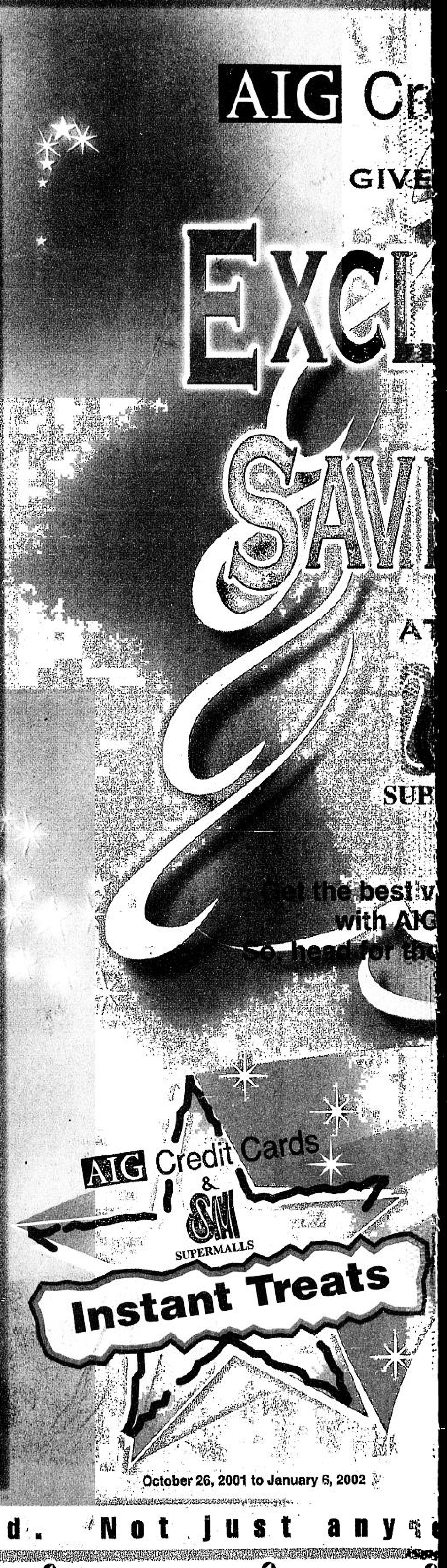
Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 3858, 3852 & 3834. Series of 2001.



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* Maximum of 10 tickets per day

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3834. Series of 2001.

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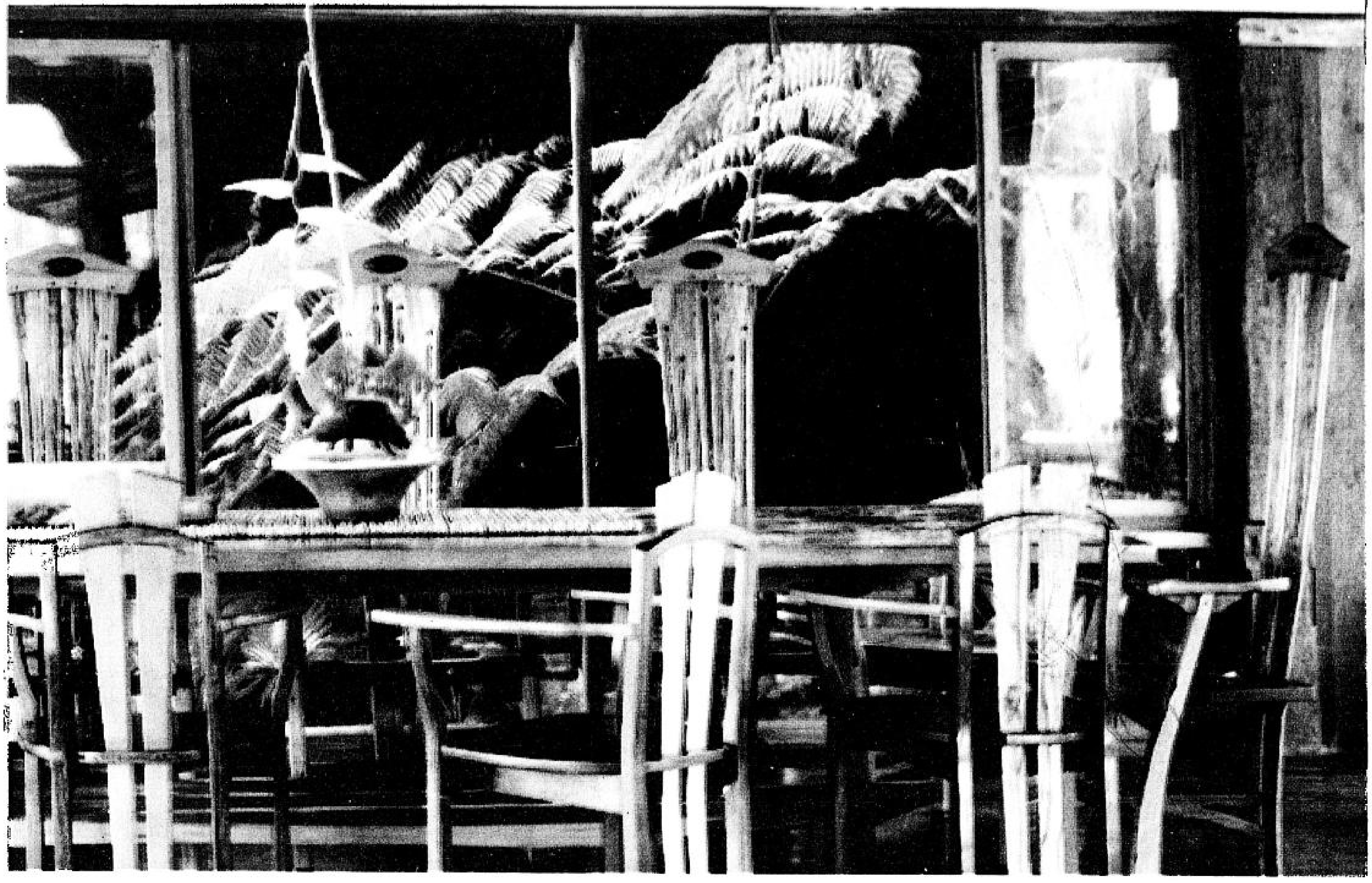


THE PEDRITO and Raja chairs complete a set of 16 in this long narra dining table, aptly called Fiesta.

House on a hill

(From page H1)

build her a home when he turned 40. Certainly, the home is filled with filial sentiments. But it is also endowed with architectural wisdom and artistry.

Layered on slopes

With the precision of a skilled craftsman, Benji layered his home on a series of slopes, feeling his way at first through the features of the lot, surveying the inclines. As he built the house, he checked tropical elements that had to be considered in the design, measuring the degree of rainfall and the sun's shadows on the eaves, for instance. He then conceptualized each segment, studying the romance of the spaces as they flowed into one another, from the *hapagkainan* to the *silong*. Passive cooling technologies are employed in the three pavilions, reducing energy consumption by allowing occupants to bask in the cool air of the Rizal hillside.

The element of water was then put in place, with a triad of a fountain converging in a 5-ft deep pool, a paradise for *koi* (Japanese carp). For landscape, Benji chose palms, ferns and bamboo fronds in organized corners, steady as in a Japanese garden but buoyed by the carefree Filipino's gardening sense. As the house is wrapped in wood and glass, the lush greenery comes from the verdant hillsides embracing the property. Pockets of dry pools, richly heaped with gray pebbles, add to the design texture, as do river rocks and adobe slabs. The enclave is invigorating, energized by the rush of cascading waters, sweetly fanned by cool mountain air and scented by the materials it cradles.

Wood enriches the house, both in architecture and furniture. Benji shares with us a marvel.

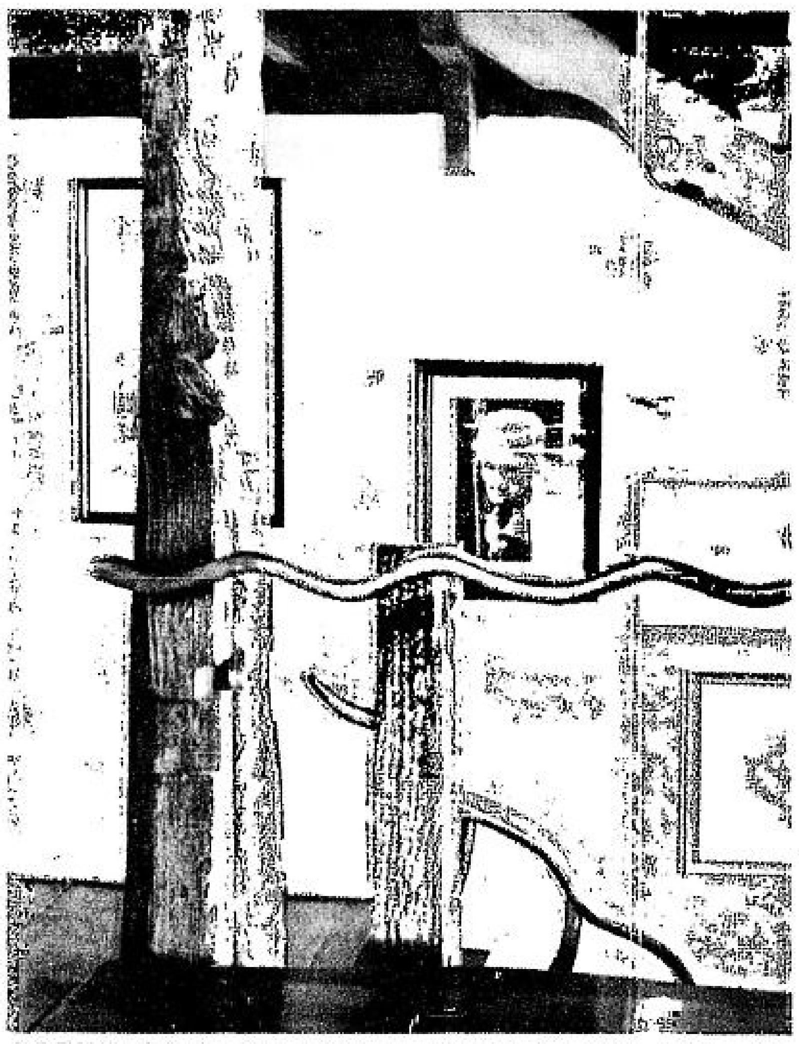
"It dawned on me that I have built a house without cutting trees. In fact, I have even planted some, on the hillsides, in the garden. Yet, in this house I have used 28-30 species of wood, all 100-percent recycled." Indeed, the spirit of regeneration pervades the house as old wood, clay roof tiles, church glass and many parts of demolished houses, found their rebirth here.

Intricacy

The intricacy of this residence, however, lies in the furniture and fine-crafted components of the architectural interiors. The house was built with no nails and with reverence for the wooden grain. It perpetuates respect for old building traditions. The use of wooden screws and the painstaking details of the timber framing gloriously point to this fact. Benji observes three objectives in furniture design and in architecture—function, structural stability and aesthetics.

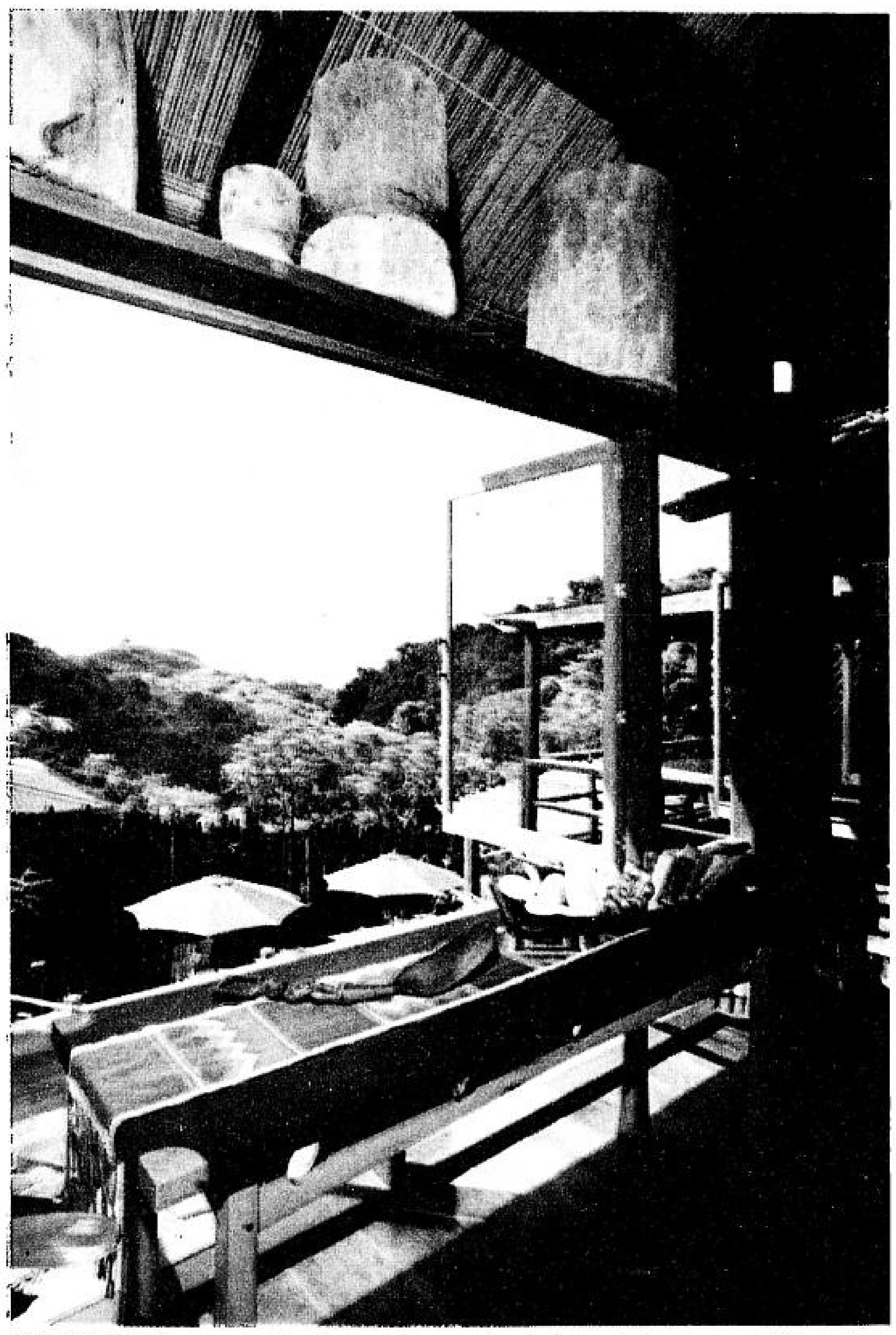
The house seemingly stands on stilts. Echoing the frames of the *balai* vernacular, its eaves proudly protrude with wide spans. Glass panels are provided on the transom windows, offering the living-dining area a

HOUSE/p.H7



A DETAIL of the handrail matches the characteristics of the old wooden posts, its deeply embedded grains creating an impression of age. A segment of the recycled *madre de escalera* supports the stair risers.

DOWN the *yakal hagdanan*, a textured appliqué is smoothened with a palette for a different approach to faux parchment wall finish, refreshing in apricot and butter yellow tones. The hand-grip detail on the stair balusters and rails are little samples of thoughtfulness in design that take into account visiting grandmothers. The form zigzags with a decidedly firm purpose.

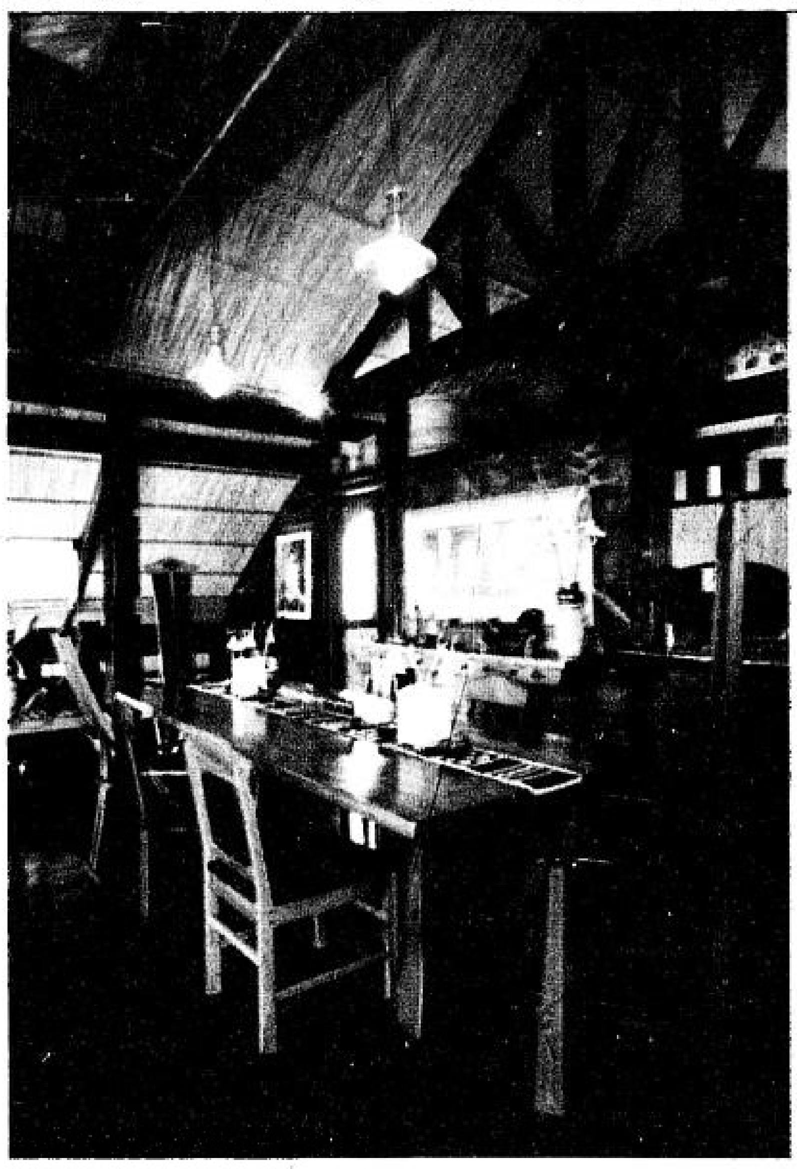


THE MAJESTIC views beckon through the wood and glass window frames. Wide eaves and generous transoms allow for well-ventilated spaces. Tropical design elements bask in splendor. A buffet table faces the lush greenery from adjoining hills.

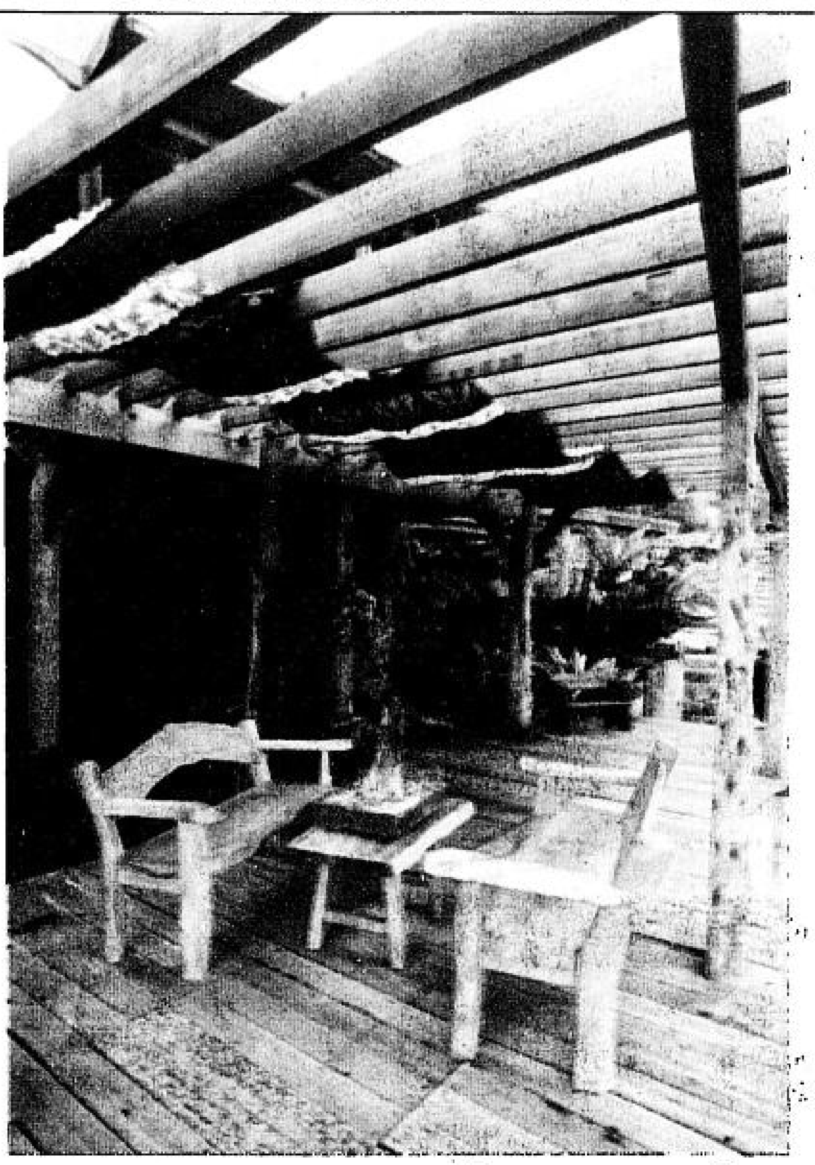
PROUD lines trace the silhouette of this three-seater, with another *sungkaan* in the foreground. The side table is created with intricate detail, joined with excellent millwork following the tradition of using no nails. Edsel Moscoso's painting of a bountiful harvest dominates the wall.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE REBORN IN MODERN HOMES

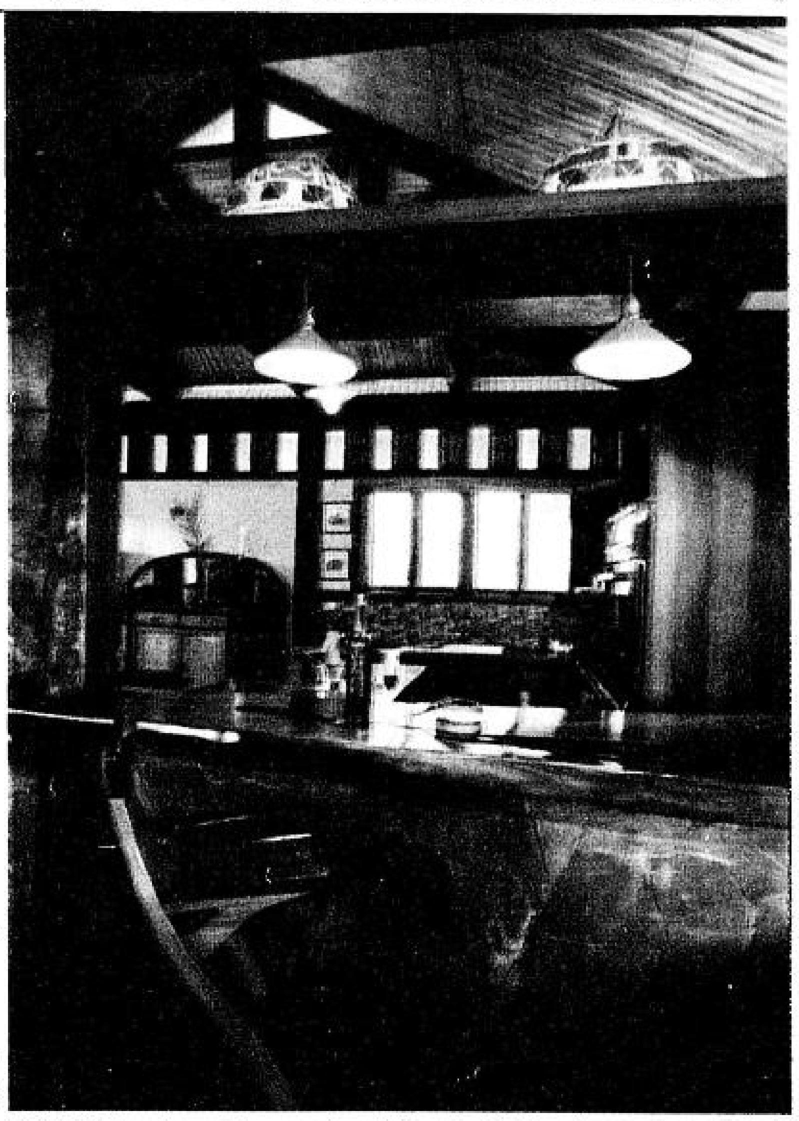
- *dulang*—low table with a recognizable geometric joinery, used for dining
- *bul-ol*—a rendering of the northern rice god, carved in dark wood, varied in sizes, essentially an ornament
- *bangko*—a narrow bench about a foot or slightly more in width, without backrest and supported by linear joinery
- ***butaka, tumba-tumba, panganganak*** **chairs**—derived from the same forms but willfully evolving in mold, width, function and curving grace
- *aparador*—the stately cabinet and armoire comes with mirrors, or with door panels with or without rich carvings
- *dalapong*—Ifugao stool made of thick wooden slabs
- *labangan*—trough carved out of a solid piece of wood now holds planters and floor-mounted accents
- *almario*—a classic pillow and bedding open cabinet with shelves
- *baul*—the chest in its many forms, richly inlaid or elegantly simple with its fine wood grains; either compartmentalized or carved whole



THE WORKTABLE is a joy to use. This corner is made playful by a variety of chairs such as the Japanese-looking Pedrito, the low-backed Pedro, short Selma in *kamagong* and the high-back, slatted Datu. Each one has a specific design and uses different woods. The table is illuminated by lighting ornaments by Wendy Fernando-Regalado, herself an Antipolo-based artist/architect. The *hapag-kainan* has distinct sloping legs that are distinctly massive but have a definite structural purpose.



THE TRELLISED porch is ideal for sunny afternoons with ethnic garden benches laid on *molave* planks.



THE BAR and counter are viewed from an interesting angle, highlighting a row of church glass transom windows, glowing with the warmth of different shades of wood. *Araal* stone is cut with sharp edges and carefully connected with little grouting.

House on a hill

TYPICAL of Benji Reyes' style is to mix woods instead of staining them. This Raja chair is intriguing. The backrest is made of steamed *dao* with strips of laminated wood crowned with *molave* with *kamagong* insert.

CHARM is embodied in the gate—a thick slab of ironwood with a carved *molave* sun over a porthole, surrounded by brass screws.

(From page H6)

view that will elicit exclamations of "Wow!"

Two hilly slopes gently part to show a grand view of the Laguna de Bay. On a truly clear day, a wondrous spread of Mt. Banahaw can be seen from a distance. It is a view from Antipolo without the metropolitan skyline, punctuated only by foggy lines and a few rooftops.

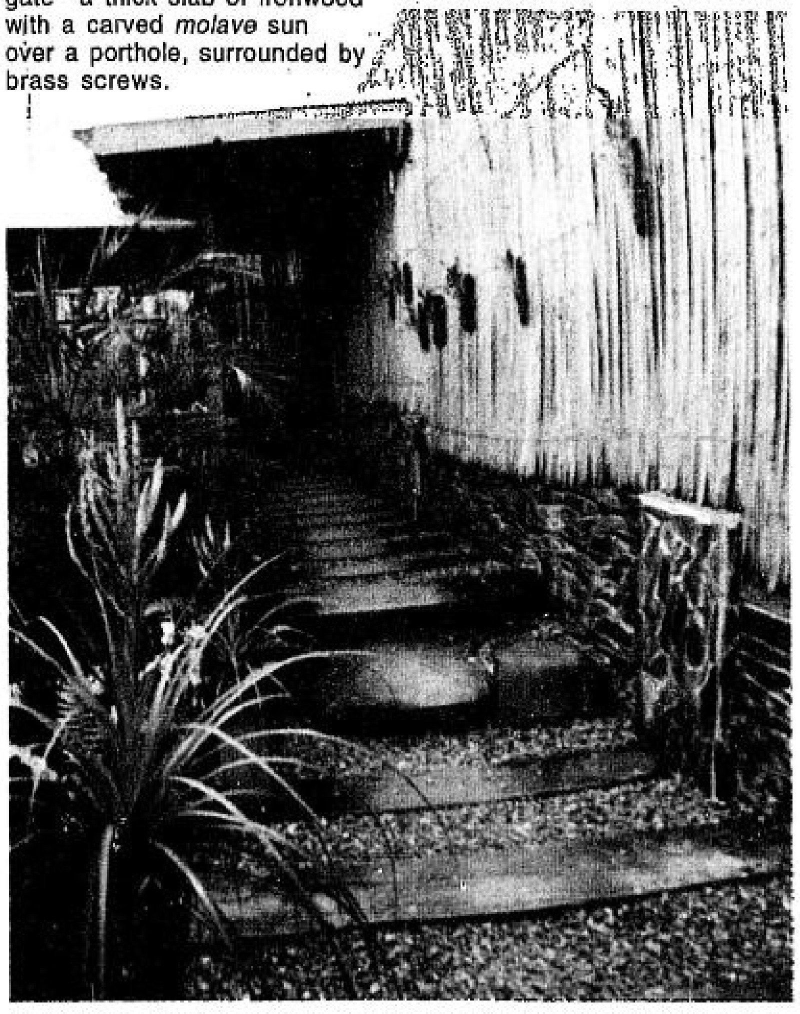
Lanelle Abueva's special, handmade tiles and pottery add more charm. They are used at length on kitchen splashboards and bathroom walls, enlivening countertops with fired earth, joyously glazed and colorful. More hues are splashed on the walls, as Benji's techniques with the palette blend apricot with butter yellow on the stairwell, and vibrant ochre in the service area. Some rooms are painted in burgundy, bright blues and cool cappuccino, mixed with the warmth of *molave* flooring, *tindalo* furniture and *yakal* posts. Wood is such a wonderful, neutral surface that colors, rich and vivid, blend exquisitely with it.

Other materials, too, contribute their organic character. On the ceiling, woven *runo* reeds of the northern variety were skillfully attached by Ifugao workers. Ifugao masons also scaled the slopes and installed the riprap on this structure. Much use of the reddish-brown *araal* is noted, highlighting the merits of this beautiful local stone spread on the walls. Exposed structural timber trusses support inverted earthen bowls in signature Lanelle style, encasing incandescent bulbs.

Majestic spirit

Modern amenities are present with fervor—from the built-in oven to the chrome fixtures, the stainless steel bar sink to the essential entertainment center—all merging gracefully with

HOUSE/p.H8



THE OUTDOOR sidelines are graced with stones in varied sizes and regularly set with slabs of wood, rice grinders and slender curvilinear posts. Bamboo dots a portion of the fence, interspersed with palms and ferns.

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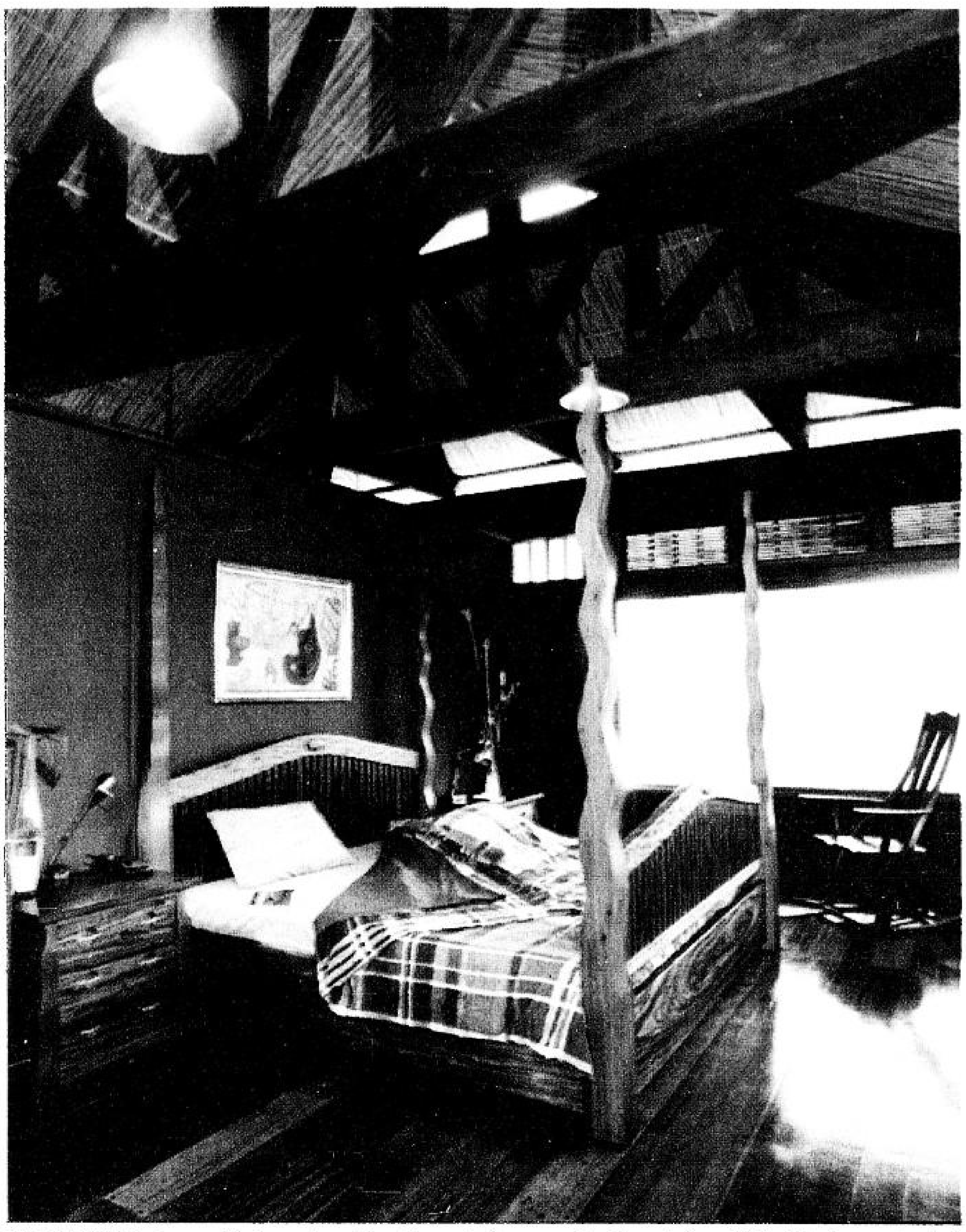
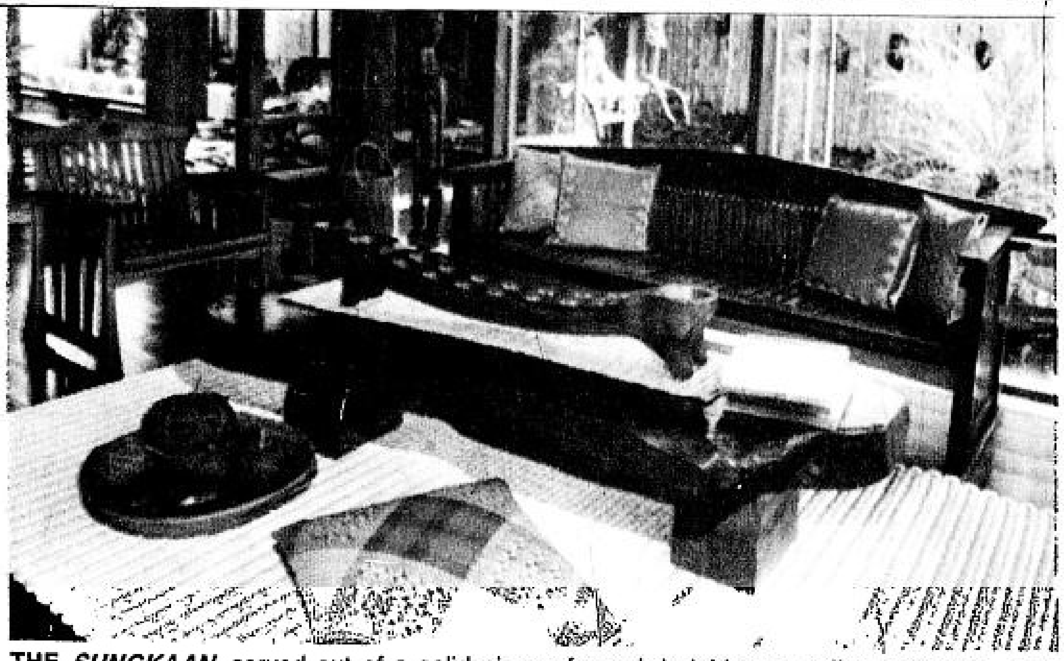


THE MASTER bedroom with burgundy walls entices with its sensuality. The spiraling detail of the four-poster bed, made of five kinds of woods, contrasts with the rigid timber trusses, exposed against the woven *runo* ceiling.



THE *SUNGKAAN*, carved out of a solid piece of wood, is laid on a coffee table. The chair is called Silya ni Careng and the long bench is aptly named Tatlong Hari. A native rug is mixed with *banig*-covered pillows, while a tray of wooden fruits is laid on the floor. An inverted earthen bowl lights up the living area.

House on a hill

(From page H7)

thick countertops of wood and ribbon-grained planks. Rooms are enriched with soft furnishings and form easily merges with function.

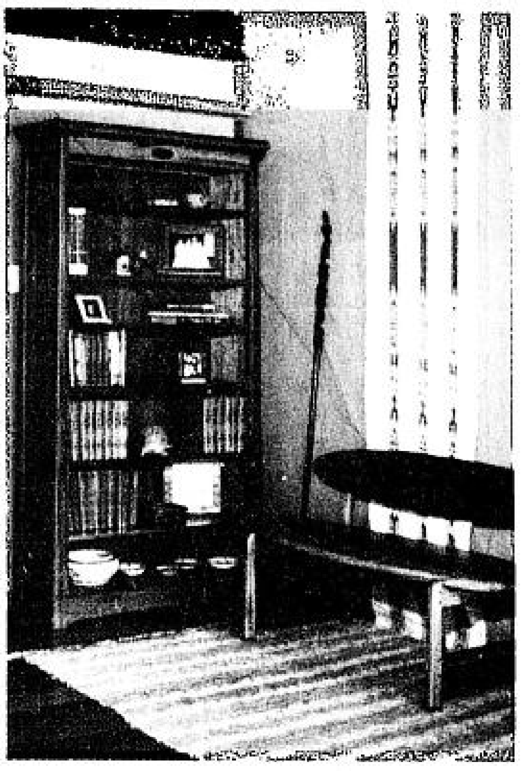
Majestic is the word to describe architecture and interiors. The design vocabulary bridges the gap between the traditional and the contemporary. The Reyes home elevates the *balai* vernacular, the recognized *bahay kubo*, to a position of a restudied, regenerated form.

It is a tribute to craftsmanship that only an excellent furniture sculptor can produce. With the impeccable detailing and admirable precision in every corner, one sees not only a sculptor but also a skilled entrepreneur in Benji. He constantly seeks ways to outdo himself, creating one furniture piece after another and seeking to move around arrangements in this house, his amorous work-in-progress.

The house delights not just in the masterful renditions of detail. It does not only pay homage to craftsmanship but is an ode to being true to our roots and recognizing what is our own. The home is a fine example of celebration in design, transcending and covering what is considered tropical and regarded as Asian and contemporary. It rejoices in the use of wood, glass and stone, the beauty and true nature of spectacular architecture, the vernacular form that is simply, truly, wonderfully Filipino architecture.

Benji Reyes' exhibit of functional sculpture runs through Dec. 8 at Firma, 616 J. Nakpil St., Malate, Manila; tel. 525-4990.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org



A SPOT in the library displays books and photos among indigenous tapestries. The bench with backrest is of *dao* wood.

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THE AGORA AWARDS
Philippines

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

Lita Pascual, Account Manager

MESSAGES

WARMEST felicitations to the organizers of and participants to the 22nd Agora Awards.

I salute the Philippine Marketing Association for spearheading this important event to honor the country's top marketing professionals. The creative and effective marketing of Philippine products, services and destinations is vital to our aim of achieving greater economic growth and development. The nation's marketing professionals must contend with today's complex environment and create the surefire strategies to find their niche in today's competitive business climate. With the vital contributions of marketing professionals, our aims for greater growth and development are easier achieved.

I congratulate this year's Agora awardees for their creative and dynamic accomplishments that redound to the welfare of the nation. I urge you to persevere in your efforts to develop strategies and approaches to help businesses and our people win the opportunities in the global era. I hope this important event will promote among your ranks greater unity, creativity, inspiration and exchange of ideas to help you face more effectively the challenges in national development.

I wish the success of the 22nd Agora Awards as the nation moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. My administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations for sustainable development and ensuring the aspirations of the Filipino people for greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THE AGORA Awards is one of the most significant events conducted by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA). This annual event is a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding individuals and companies who have attained success and in the process, contributed to the growth of the marketing industry.

It is always a pleasure and an honor to be part of the Agora Awards for it is an avenue where we come face to face with exceptional marketers. Their success stories are truly inspiring and enriching. Despite the myriad challenges posed by the dwindling economy and changing times, I marvel at how entrepreneurs and companies overcome the hurdles and difficulties they encounter. Their perseverance and dedications that the marketing industry will thrive and advance further on the coming years. Certainly, the marketing and business community will continue to play a pivotal role in nation building.

This year, we pay tribute to exceptional marketers and entrepreneurs from the various sectors of marketing – educations, export, entrepreneurship, and more. Each winner has exhibited exemplary performance in pursuing his craft and thus, carved a mark in his chosen field.

I congratulate all the winners of the 22nd Agora Awards. May you continue to be industry leaders that bring growth and progress to our country. Your passion and commitment are sources of inspiration and strength for all of us.

Mabuhay!

JOSE JESUS F. ROCES
PMA President

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association proudly salutes the winners of the 22nd AGORA AWARDS.

These Marketing professionals have risen above the crises of the nation, and of the world, to inspire humanity to achieve...with excellence, integrity and commitment.

Every year, the AGORA AWARDS resolves that outstanding achievements such as these fittingly deserve a grand, high profile celebration.

It is our honor to present the year 2001 AGORA AWARDS to these remarkable high achievers in the Marketing profession.

Mabuhay ang GALING–Pilipino!

VON F. HIZON
Director-in-charge
2001 Agora Awards

IT WAS initially out of a sense of responsibility that I agreed to become a Judge for this year's Agora Awards. A few years back, I was blessed to be one of the awardees. Agreeing to be a judge was my way of reciprocating and expressing my appreciation to the Philippine Marketing Association. I admit though, that I had twinge of regret, when I realized how many hours would be needed in the judging process.

However, as the judging began, I quickly began to feel a sense of pride in our countrymen. As we deliberated about the candidates, I learned to appreciate the ingenuity of the Filipino. The process began to change from a mere sense of responsibility to a learning experience. More than that, it became a heartwarming experience – a welcome change from the doom and gloom caused by local politics, a slowing economy and the events of Sept. 11. The Board of Judges saw many examples of what the Filipino can achieve with vision, creativity, perseverance and hard work.

My thanks to those at the Philippine Marketing Association for their dedication in keeping the Agora Awards alive. Your efforts not only encourage the hearts of the Agora Awardees but also reinforce the much needed qualities of vision, creativity, perseverance and hard work necessary in building the Filipino nation.

Congratulations to all the 2001 Agora Awardees. Let me assure you, the Board of Judges was quite dedicated in ensuring all winners truly deserved to be winners. You should take great pride in being an Agora Awardee. We salute your vision, creativity, perseverance and hard work.

Mabuhay ang Galing-Pilipino!

MALU C. DY BUNCIO

The mark of a true marketing practitioner

MARKETING is a vital tool in any economy. A marketing practitioner persists to labor, continually provides to the needs and wants of the changing consumer, and performs tasks to keep the wheels of commerce turning.

While new products and brands are propelled to popularity, the marketing practitioner remains unknown. His satisfaction lies in knowing that his work has made a big impact to the consumers.

Then in 1979, the Philippine Marketing Association launched the first Agora Awards. Suddenly, the people behind successful marketing campaigns were given recognition. Real names are finally placed beside the products, brands and companies are making waves in the market.

Since its inception in 1979, the PMA has upheld the marketing practice and initiated endeavors that would continue to address and resolve issues affecting the industry.

But beyond the recognition, the Agora Awards symbolize the determination and ingenuity of the Filipino marketer. That given his sometimes limited means, he is able to deliver a message, give consumers convenient access to his brands, or make his company meet its marketing objectives. Either way, the ingenious marketer inspires his peers to rise beyond mediocrity and achieve excellence in their respective fields.

For the past years, the Agora Awards has been propelling the Philippine marketing scene to greater heights, honoring many deserving individuals, and serving as the standard for marketing excellence in the Philippines.

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His life is like a story taken from a movie script

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
Founder and president
ACA Video and Lasertech Inc.
Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship-Small to Medium Scale

AGUILUZ

HIS life is like a story taken from a movie script—his living a great life, his wanting to venture into something different, people close to him being against it, he persisting. he in his own "baptism of fire," but eventually succeeds.

Amable C. Aguiluz IX, founder and president of ACA Video and Lasertech Inc. and president of AMA Education System, is this year's recipient of the Agora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship-Small to Medium Scale.

"As a young man, I traveled a lot with my father and for so many times witnessed him negotiate and close big business deals with his partners. I always dreamt of putting up my own business and proving that like my father, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, who is the recognized Father of Computer Education in the Philippines, I too, can make my mark as an entrepreneur," relates Aguiluz.

The elder Aguiluz was also a recipient of an Agora Award in 1995--also for entrepreneurship.

Aguiluz says that his interest in entrepreneurship began while he was a college student. He loved movies and entertainment. As chair then of the Ateneo Business Management, he organized concerts and sponsored film-showings in order to raise funds for the organization.

"After college, something started telling me that I had to get out of my father's shadow and chart my own destiny, but at the same time follow his footsteps as a business empire builder. He himself had trained and positioned me toward the path of entrepreneurship," says Aguiluz.

In 1991, he put up his very first ACA Video store against the advice of all his father's financial consultants. He persisted and convinced his father that the Filipino viewer needed this guarantee of quality viewing, and it would work out well. Eventually, he got his father's blessings.

"I took my leap of faith, put everything I had on the line (including personal loans) and personally supervised the first ACA Video store's construction in Quezon Avenue. I left nothing to chance. After it was completed in less than a month, I single-handedly acted as a store manager, marketing manager and service crewman. I never worked so hard in my life," Aguiluz relates.

And just like any budding entrepreneur, he had his "baptism of fire." The early '90s was the time when power outages were almost a daily occurrence, effectively limiting the viewing hours of a household family. Pirated tapes proliferated in "mom n' pop" rental stores at fantastically low prices. But Aguiluz held true to his commitment to the public.

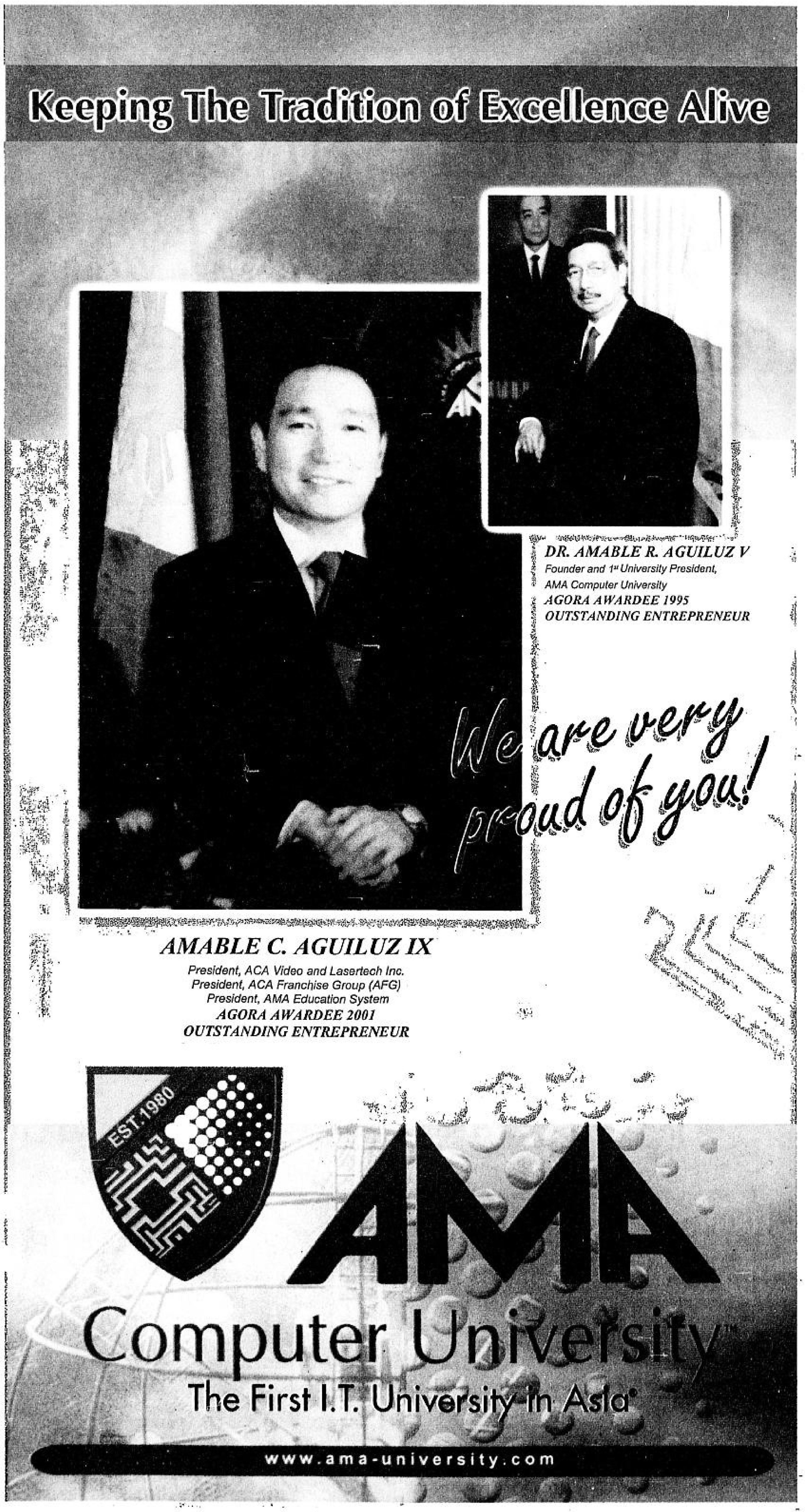
"Fortunately I was able to hurdle it. I must have done something right," Aguiluz says.

Aguiluz says that it was creative marketing which continuously and profitably satisfies the needs, wants and expectations of ACA Video's target customers. Creative marketing was the key in making his company surpass its competitors to become No. 1 in the industry in terms of market share, growth in sales volume and revenue, number of sales outlets, and number of videotape titles in all movie categories and formats.

He adds that as an entrepreneur, he was instrumental in professionalizing and helping raise the quality standards of the video home entertainment industry. He was also able to create a home-grown franchise just like other successful local franchises. ACA franchises now operate in 148 outlets nationwide.

"My hard-earned success in my ACA Video Rental Store business emboldened me to establish other franchise businesses that I lumped together under the ACA Group of Companies which I renamed early this year as the ACA Franchise Group (AFG)," Aguiluz says.

In the process, the AFG now has already developed, as of August 2001, nine homegrown franchises in just a span of two years. These are Fix It, Cellphone Lab, Dr. Watch, PC-Aid, Megashine, Workers Barbershop, Mr. Appliance, Domeng's Barbecue, and Mang Key. *Joel V. Nigos*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Filipino virtues as marketing strategy

UNITED LABORATORIES
Marketing Company of the Year

IBAÑEZ

UNITED Laboratories, 2001 Agora Awards Marketing Company of the Year is one such company that saw opportunity at the time of disaster.

The company started in 1945, right after World War II, when the nation with its young population was still reeling from the ravages of war and the economy in shambles. This was the time when the people needed affordable medicines to cure their ailments.

Rodolfo Ibañez, executive vice president for business strategic planning of United Laboratories, attributes Unilab's winning the award to the philosophies of the company formulated by its first chair and now chair emeritus, Jose Y. Campos. These are the philosophies, he says, the company has followed through the years.

These philosophies are founded on the Filipino virtues of *bayanihan*, *pagmamalasakit*, *pakikisama* and *utang na loob*. These virtues, he adds, sits very well with Unilab being a 100-percent Filipino-owned company.

"The company believes in shared responsibilities and benefits being shared, this for us is *bayanihan*. We also take good care of our employees which eventually translates to care also to our products and to the company's clients and consumers. This for us is *pagmamalasakit*, *pakikisama* and *utang na loob*," Ibañez emphasizes.

Ibañez says that the Agora Award is not only a recognition of the achievement of the company, but more importantly a testimony to the capability of the Filipino.

"We know that the pharmaceutical industry is dominated by multinationals worldwide. In the Philippines, it is the Filipino leading the way, succeeding and beating the multinationals in their own game," Ibañez relates.

Unilab now has the largest market share in the pharmaceutical industry in the Philippines, if not in Southeast Asia.

According to Ibañez, another interesting point which characterizes the marketing strategy of the company is to be different.

"Our chair emeritus then wanted the company to be unique. He says that this is the only way we can compete with the multinationals. The company has to come up with quality products that the general public can afford," says Ibañez.

In order to be unique and to come up with new products, some of Unilab's medicines are formulations put together by Filipino scientists from existing compounds which are licensed to Unilab by research-based companies.

"Like Alaxan, it is the most powerful analgesic that you can buy in the market and yet it is the safest. It is formed through the combination of two existing molecules—paracetamol and ibuprofen—which is more synergistically combined producing an effect more than the actual combination of the two," Ibañez says.

These synergies are basically what Unilab is all about. These define the marketing strategies of the company.

"I guess, in essence it is not a question of being able to get the biggest market share and the company having high-quality products, what is more important is that every product that people use and the doctors prescribe would be able to speak for itself because the product will do whatever its promise. In medicine, it is giving hope to the patient, that if they will take the product the patient will get well," Ibañez concludes. *Joel V. Nigos*

'It's like receiving an Oscar in marketing'

ABRAHAM F. PASCUAL
Chairman and chief executive officer,
Pascual Laboratories
Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship-Large Scale

PASCUAL

ABRAHAM F. Pascual, this year's recipient of the Agora Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship-Large Scale, considers his award as the most prestigious in marketing. Pascual, who is chair and chief executive officer of Pascual Laboratories, likens it to receiving an Oscar.

He says the award is a recognition of the growth and prominence of the company he leads in the pharmaceutical industry. It is also a tribute to his accomplishments as the head of the company.

"I believe that we have gained respect as a company being in the industry for 55 years now, with the excellent quality of our products and the patronage that we have received through the years from the medical doctors as well as from the consumers," he adds.

Pascual was instrumental in steering his company to create its vision, which eventually guided the company in the last several years.

He saw Pascual Laboratories as a global company that will continue to produce high quality medicines at the same time maintaining how the company conducts its business.

"Five years ago we had entered the global market. We forged an agreement with research bodies and with the government to bring into the market herbal products. We've been very successful in marketing these research-based products both locally and abroad. We're hoping that we'll be in the United States at the end of the year. We have already penetrated our neighboring countries, particularly in Southeast Asia," he says.

Pascual also led the formulation of the company's corporate values which now serve as the guiding light of the company. These corporate values include excellence, innovativeness and

IT'S LIKE/ G3

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LUIS RAYMUND VILLAFUERTE
President and owner
of Lara's Gifts and Decors
Outstanding Achievement
in Export Marketing

VILLAFUERTE

WHAT does it take for a Filipino export company to start successfully and eventually penetrate the US market?

Jester clowns—or those lifesize decorative dolls—according to Luis Raymond Villafuerte.

"That was our biggest break," says Villafuerte, referring to his company that began 10 years ago with only P50.000 capitalization and handful of employees.

"Our very first buyer from the United States wanted 1,000 jester clowns in 30 days and nobody wanted to do it. We did."

Lara's Gifts and Decors (LGD) is proof that Filipinos can design and make world-class home decors and can be relied upon when it comes to delivery of products.

Because of repeat clients, the company today boasts of an 84.63-percent growth rate per year. Its shipment of assorted products has reached an average of 10 to 15 container vans (40-and 45-foot containers). The number of its employees who work in the factory site in Taguig, Metro Manila have increased to 500.

LGD also leads in product design and innovation. It received the Golden Shell Award from the Center for International Trade Exposition and Mission (Citem) in 1997. The company was also awarded by Citem the best product collection in 1994, 1995 and 1996. and best booth display in 1994 during the furniture and furnishing fair.

Abroad, LGD is known for its wrought iron and resin-made home decorative items as well as products made from abaca. The company popularized the abaca rope through its creative picture frames, candle holders, napkin rings, wine holders, topiaries, lamps, boxes, even seat and back material for furniture. LGD's abaca products were featured in major home magazines in the United States and Great Britain.

Villafuerte and wife Lara (for which the company was named after) started the business almost right after graduation from college. Villafuerte took a political science degree while Lara a business management course. Lara had a short stint first as a flight stewardess where she got the idea on what products to export.

LGD exports its products to Europe and the United States, the latter being the company's biggest market. LGD now has a showroom and marketing arm there. But how does one create a market?

Villafuerte recalls they had to initially write letters to 500 companies worldwide, offering them their products. Out of the 500 companies, only five responded. And of the five, only one was serious--well, in a way, quite serious. That one didn't want their products. They wanted clowns in 30 days.

"So once we made the orders, this importer bought a lot of stuff, such as photo frames and candle holders. That's how we started. It was really *lakas ng loob* (lots of guts)."

Villafuerte says the country's closest competitor in the export industry may well be China, where technology is also present, and the labor cheap. Filipinos, however, have a cultural advantage: they speak English, understand and live Western style, and have a company like LGD whose products and company vision befit the 21st century.

"We've evolved and expanded. The buyers give us the opportunities. Even if we don't make it, they ask us to do it, because we have a good track record. We're never late on a shipment." *Raquel P. Gomez*

Succeeding in a foreign market

CESAR M. DELA CRUZ
Deputy CEO
PT. Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk.
Asia Pacific Agora Award for
Marketing Excellence

DELA CRUZ

NOTHING is as impressive among fellow *kababayans* as news of a Filipino attaining recognition and success abroad. Cesar M. dela Cruz, winner of this year's Asia Pacific Agora Award, is one such Filipino – a symbol of perseverance and excellence among professionals, a banner expressing the Filipinos' ability to meet and transcend global standards of performance.

Early on, Dela Cruz began setting his sights on opportunities that lay within the greater Asean region, beyond Philippine shores. However, before moving to the region, he joined one of SGV's correspondent firms in the United States, after completing his MBA at the Wharton School University in Pennsylavia. He was later assigned to the SGV Group's member firm in Indonesia, Drs. Utomo, Mulia & Co. where he worked as partner in the audit division of the Group. In May of that year, he was seconded to be the Senior SGV partner at Ahn Kwon & Co., the group's member firm in Seoul, Korea. There he was responsible for top multinational companies like General Motors, Citibank, Coca-Cola, among others. Dela Cruz remained with the SGV Group until 1983, after twenty years of loyal and outstanding service.

Dela Cruz went on to join the Salina Group, where he works to the present. He now holds the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), after having risen up the ranks. He is also the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company, selected as best CFO in Indonesia by the Finance Asia magazine this 2001. Dela Cruz's principal responsibilities include the development of a corporate vision and mission, setting up of corporate policies and objectives, strategic planning preparation of annual operating plans, supervision, monitoring and periodic review of activities of operating and support divisions, investors relations, capital raising and other corporate-wide activities.

One of his notable achievements as CEO of the Indofood Group was his development and successful implementation of the "Triple A Strategy". The triple As signify acceptability (ensuring the products are of the highest quality and satisfy consumer needs), affordability (offering low-cost products to maximize market penetration) and availability (possessing an extensive distribution network to serve consumers all over the archipelago, clustered as close to the consumer as possible). Dela Cruz continues to provide superior service to the Indofood Group, braving even the trying political and economic crises to hit the country.

In view of his numerous achievements as a marketing professional, Cesar M. dela Cruz is awarded the Asia Pacific Agora Award, one of the most prestigious in the country. This year, fellow Filipinos and marketers salute him, as a shining example of the Filipino spirit and talent, which flourish in markets even beyond their own.

'It's like receiving . . .

(From page G2)

social responsibility.

"This, in a sense, contributed to unity in the company. Now, each member of the company lives and shares the same values," he relates.

These shared values, he says, has formed the company's culture and contributed a lot to the growth of the company.

Pascual says that with him at the helm, the company remains to be committed to the foremost (marketing) goal of the company that it has adhered to through the years, which is to continue to offer quality pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

"A developing country like ours, with a great number of people still not very well-off, needs access to quality products that people can very well afford. In this aspect, my company would like to be of help," Pascual concludes. *Joel V. Nigos*

Photos by ROMY HOMILLADA

The practical approach

TOMAS B. LOPEZ, JR.
Professor,
Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
Outstanding Achievement
in Marketing Education

TO BE a good teacher of marketing, one has to at least practice what he's preaching, that is, to be really engaged in a business and experience full blast the highs and the lows of running one.

This is the view of Tomas Lopez, Jr., 52, a well-loved professor at the Asian Institute of Management. This view translates to his decades of experience in the business sector.

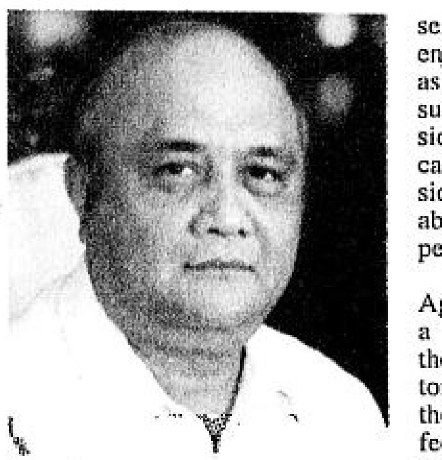
Lopez's engagement outside of AIM is like a colorful patchwork of different enterprises. He worked as a broadcast journalist, made commercials, ran a trading company selling broadcast equipment. He operated a multilevel marketing company and owned and ran a fastfood chain in the United States.

He worked with the government, as secretary of the Department of Agriculture in the Aquino administration. He had sat in a number of boards in different foundations and companies.

Currently, Lopez still holds top positions in several companies. He is a president of a resort based in Palawan and owns part of a company that markets building products.

"Through teaching," he says "I'm able to share what I know and practice in real life with my students."

Lopez started teaching at AIM in 1989 after he got his Master's degree (with distinction) at the same school. He conducts an average of 220 classroom sessions a year, which is an overload, considering that the required classroom session per professor at AIM is only 120 a year. "This year, I'll probably do as much. There's no extra pay."

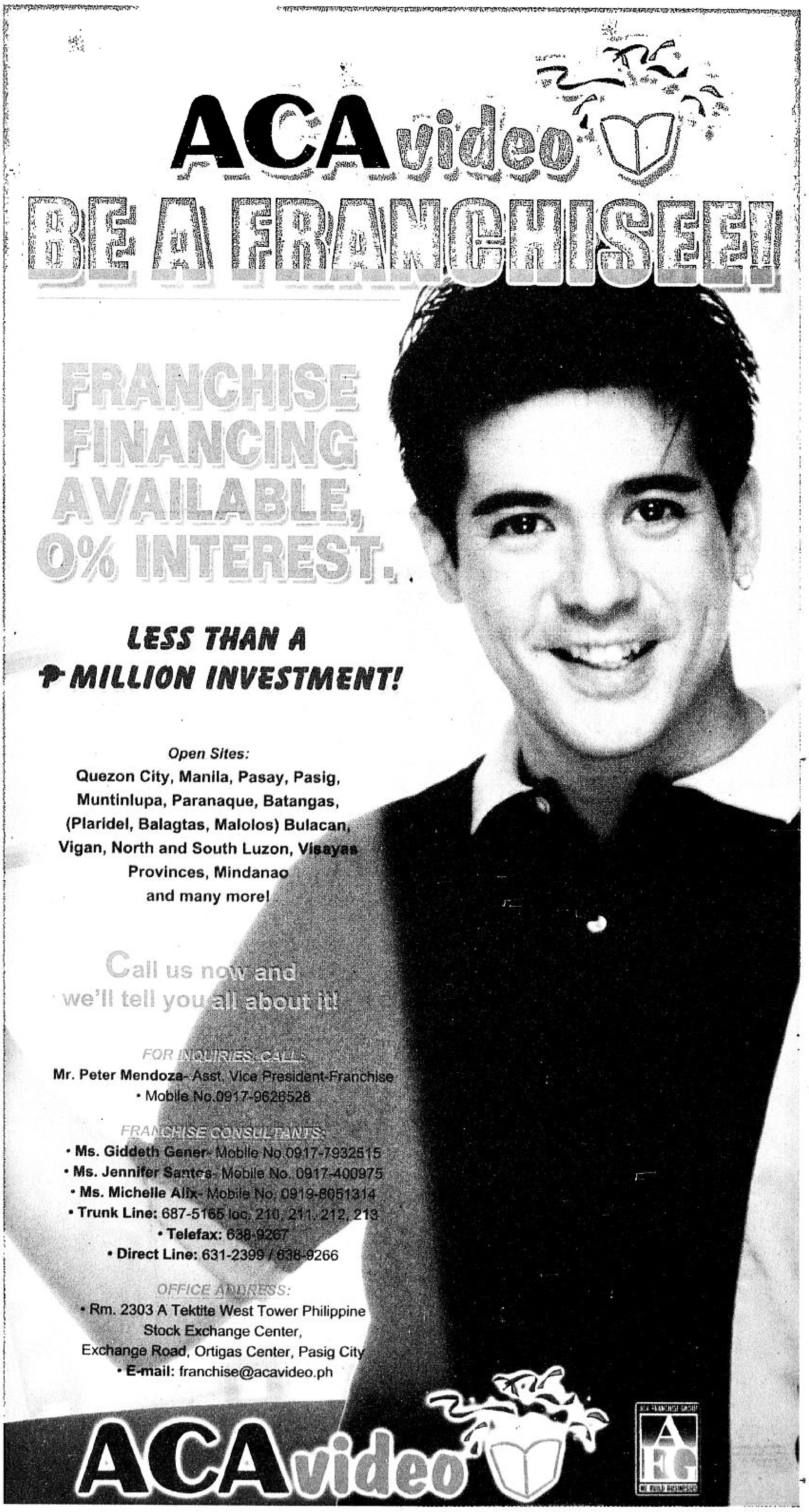


LOPEZ

Students enjoy his engaging sessions. "I believe if you don't enjoy what you teach, how can you ask your students to enjoy your subject matter. If you're not passionate about what you teach, how can you ask students to be passionate. I put in and feel as much about my subject matter and expect students to feel the same."

Lopez is very pleased with his Agora Award. The award is sort of a "feedback" from his "peers" in the business world (much like actors voting the best among them in the Oscars). "I've always known feedback from students and clients, but I've never had the feedback from the peers and practitioners."

To sum up, teaching is one noble profession, according to Lopez. "I never imagined myself as a teacher. I never imagined getting an award for teaching. I enjoyed it and I pursued it." *Raquel P. Gomez*



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ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Agency of the Year finalists known

THE MANAGEMENT committee of the Search for the Agency of the Year (AOY) 2000 releases the finalists in the various competition categories, as screened and evaluated during the judging last Sept. 28 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

The Best in Management of Business category rewards excellence in management of organization, of people, of systems and, of total agency services. The finalists are Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, Basic Advertising, Jimenez D'Arcy, Lowe Lintas & Partners, and McCann Erickson.

The Best in Industry Leadership and Community Service category recognizes the winning agency's most important contribution to the industry's projects that aim to promote the industry as a whole and to foster better agency-community relations. The finalists are Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, Basic Advertising, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, and McCann Erickson.

Exceptional marketing and strategic skill that had great impact on the selling success of the product being advertised marks the agency that bags the Best in Market Performance. The finalists in this category are Basic Advertising, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, Lowe Lintas & Partners, and McCann Erickson.

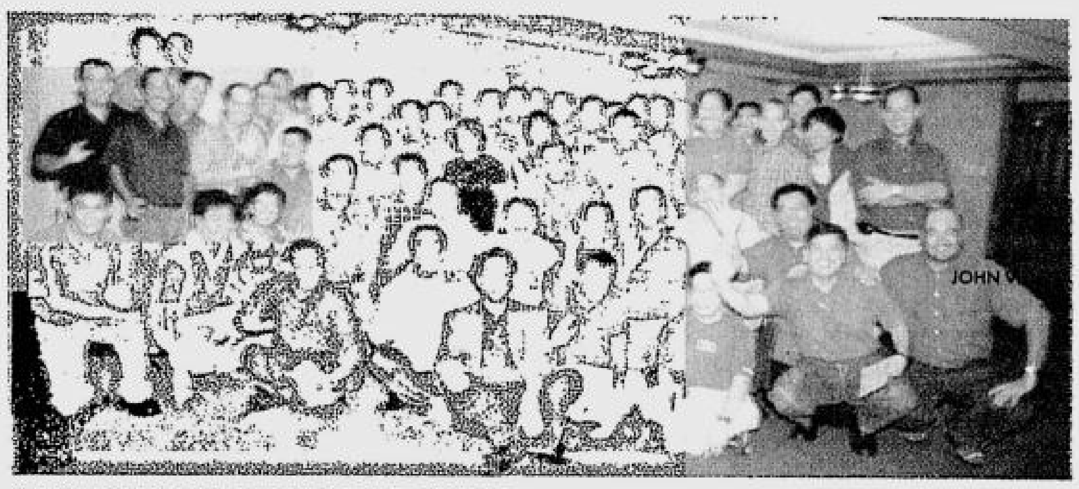
The Best in Media category honors the agency that displays the most innovative use of media where an advertising message was effectively and efficiently communicated. The finalists are Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, Hemisphere-Leo Burnett, Jimenez D'Arcy, McCann Erickson and Ogilvy & Mather.

Outstanding creative achievement based on the quality of creative ideas across media vehicles, distinguishes the winner in the Best in Creative category. The finalists are Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Hemisphere Leo Burnett, Jimenez D'Arcy, Lowe Lintas & Partners, McCann Erickson and Ogilvy & Mather.

Special recognition will likewise be given to production houses, the partners of advertising agencies in creating excellent advertising. The TV Production House of the Year finalists include Filmex, Industria, Production Village, Scene Stealers, and United Productions.

The Radio Production House of the Year finalists are Ad Farm, Audio Media, Audiopost/Roadrunner, Hit Productions, and Sound Design, while Calypso, Giraffe-X, and Microsep slug it out for the Print Production House of the Year title.

The awarding ceremony will be held during the general membership meeting of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4AsP) today, Nov. 16, 6 p.m. at the Ballroom 1, Dusit Hotel Nikko.



SBC HS'78 PLANS HOMECOMING

In keeping with the centennial spirit, the San Beda College High School Class '78 held their grand reunion recently to signal the start of the alumni homecoming preparations for 2003. The SBC alumni flag will be turned over to high school batch '78 during the grand annual alumni homecoming in February 2002. It has produced several prominent personalities in the fields of media, education, business management, economics and the performing arts. Shown are members of Class '78 led by batch president lawyer Constantino 'Banjo' Navarro III (first row, extreme right).

makro
UGURATION

MAKRO PAMPANGA OPENING

Pilipinas Makro Inc.'s 8th store in the Philippines was inaugurated Oct. 23 and officially opened to customers Oct. 24. Shown cutting the inaugural ribbon are guests of honor Governor Lito Lapid (third from right) and Vice Governor Juan Miguel Arroyo (left). Also shown are (from left) Hanjo de Kupier of the Dutch embassy; Makro Asia COO Eric van Peer; Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales; and Pilipinas Makro president and managing director Efren Rueda.

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The memorandum of agreement linking the Rotary D3830 Employment Bureau was signed among Rotary International District 3830 Philippines, represented by its district governor Ernesto Salas and all the presidents of the Rotary Clubs, Department of Labor and Employment NCR director Alex Maraan and the managers of the Public Employment Services Offices (Peso) in Parañaque, Makati, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Taguig and Pateros. This formalizes Rotary's commitment job generation by sponsoring at least one Mega Job Fair a year. These simultaneous job fairs allow job seekers to apply in as many companies in one day.

NESTLE ICE CREAM 4TH BRANCH AT SHANGRI-LA MALL

Nestlé Ice Cream recently opened another ice cream parlor at the 5th level of the Shangri-La Mall Edsa. Gracing the ceremonial opening was Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos (right). Also shown are the owners of the latest Nestlé ice cream parlor Ernesto Fernandez (left) and Olivia Fernandez.